DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 288 611 PS 016 885

TITLE	U.S. Children and Their Families: Current Conditions and Recent Trends, 1987. A Report Together with Additional Views of the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, U.S. House of Representatives, One Hundredth Congress, First Session.
INSTITUTION	Congress of the U.S., Washington, DC. House Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families.
PUB DATE	Mar 87
NOTE	98p.; Document contains small and marginally legible print. For the 1983 report, see ED 231 528.
AVAILABLE FROM	Superintendent of Documents, Congressional Sales Office, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (Stock No. 052-070-06299-1, $2.75)
PUB TYPE	Legal/Legislative/Regulatory Materials (090) -- Statistical Data (110)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC04 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Attitudes; Behavior; *Education; *Family Environment; *Family Income; Family Problems; Government Role; *Health; Intervention; *Population Trends; Tables (Data)
IDENTIFIERS	Congress 100th

ABSTRACT

Compiled by an independent research organization for the House Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, the 92 tables in this 1987 report update the committee's 1983 assessment of the conditions in which American children and their families live. These tables, which constitute a concise statistical summary of the most recent national data, provide information about: population; family environment; income; education; health and health-related behavior; behavior and attitudes; and selected government programs affecting children. The 1983 report identified what appeared to be dramatic shifts in families' social and economic conditions and living arrangements. This report demonstrates that these trends have made an imprint on the demographics of U.S. society and continue to create rigorous new challenges for American families. In some areas, pressures are intensifying. Included are comments of a minority of the committee which are in disagreement with the view that the trends indicated by the statistics are permanent and which point out positive trends in the data. (RH)

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100th Congress
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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U.S. CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES: CURRENT CONDITIONS AND RECENT TRENDS, 1987

A REPORT

together with

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDREDTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

MARCH 1987

Printed for the use of the
Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
60-629 WASHINGTON : 1987

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Congressional Sales Office
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U.S. CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES: CURRENT CONDITIONS AND RECENT TRENDS, 1987

INTRODUCTION

In 1983, the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families began an assessment of the conditions in which American children and their families live. Our first report portrayed in detail the social and economic circumstances of American families. Now, at the outset of the 100th Congress, we have updated that assessment with "U.S. Children and Their Families: Current Conditions and Recent Trends, 1987."

This is a report card on where we stand as a nation in terms of families' financial status, housing arrangements, and the educational and health status of our youth. Four years ago, we identified what appeared to be dramatic shifts in families' social and economic conditions and living arrangements. What this report demonstrates beyond a doubt is that these trends are not temporary phenomena. They have made a permanent imprint on the demographics of our society and they continue to create rigorous new challenges for American families. In some areas the pressures are intensifying.

This report shows, for example, that:

In 1982, 5.8 million families with children were headed by single women. By 1986, the number of female-headed families increased by nearly a quarter of a million. One out of four children under 18 now lives in a single-parent household.

In 1982, we noted that nearly a majority of young children lived in households where both parents, or the only parent present, worked. Today, that is a fact for a majority of American children 5 years old or younger.

When the decade began, 39 percent of married mothers with infants under age one were in the workforce. By 1986, a majority of these mothers with infants were in the labor force.

In 1982, we noted that the poverty rate for children had increased by nearly one-third between 1970 to 1981, from 15 percent to about 20 percent. In 1985, more than 20 percent of all children remain impoverished.

Progress in reducing infant mortality has slowed dramatically. Black infants continue to die at nearly twice the rate of white infants, and the gap has widened over the past five years.

Low-income children suffer disproportionately in their health status, with higher rates of chronic disability, and lower utilization rates of medical and dental services.

The new data also reveal signs of progress:

Student SAT scores, rebounding in 1982 after a steady slide since the early sixties, continue to show modest increases through 1985.

While drug use among high school seniors remains high, it has declined steadily between 1981 and 1985; cocaine use, however, continues to rise.

In 1985, 67 percent of all black elementary school children lived in families where one or both parents finished high school, up by nearly one-third since the beginning of the 1980s.

This compilation is not intended to be comprehensive, nor does it use every statistical series available. It includes only those data for which there are reasonably reliable national measures. Nevertheless, it should be noted that national data often mask regional and local differences.

By adding a great deal of new information, this report presents a clearer and more comprehensive picture of this nation's children and families than was possible before. We have included previously unavailable data on Hispanic children, foster children, adopted children and children with various health and mental health problems, and children's health insurance coverage.

Yet, the dearth of solid, national statistics on these and many other groups of children, such as Native American children, children of immigrants, handicapped children, and children of homeless and displaced families, continues to make the development of responsive policies affecting these groups difficult.

Beginning with our first report, the knowledge gathered by the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families has added measurably to the information base of the Congress, and has sharpened substantially the debate on problems facing America's children, youth and families. The evidence of the past four years alone signals changing circumstances that demand intelligent and creative responses from families, institutions, and government at all levels. We hope that this new report, which confirms profound changes in the lives of American families, will further enhance our ability to make sound policy choices.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee wishes to thank Child Trends, Inc. for compiling this report. Child Trends is a not-for-profit research organization dedicated to improving the scope, quality, and use of statistical information about children and families.

The preparation of this report was made possible by Grant No. SES-8501616 from the National Science Foundation, for support of activities aimed at "Improving the Basic Research Potential of Federal Statistics on Children, Youth, and Families," and by supplementary support provided by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

GEORGE MILLER,
Chairman,
DAN COATS,
Ranking Minority Member.

POPULATION

1. Number of Children by Age, Race, and Spanish Origin. The total number of children has fallen since the early 1970s but is projected to rise somewhat in the coming decade. The number of preschool children has increased since 1980, but is projected to begin decreasing by the year 2000. The number of elementary school-aged children continues to be low compared with 1960, but will increase through the year 2000. The number of secondary-school aged youth will continue to decline through 1990, but then increase by the turn of the century. The number of black children is expected to rise between 1985 and 2000. Spanish-origin children, now 10 percent of all children, will climb to 13 percent by the year 2000. Children under 18, as a percentage of the total U.S. population, have declined from comprising more than a third of the population in 1960 to just over a quarter of the population in 1985.

Number in Millions

	1960	1970	1980	1985	1990 (projected)	2000 (projected)
Total Aged 0-17	64.2	69.6	63.7	63.0	64.3	67.4
Age						
0 - 5	24.3	21.0	19.6	21.6	23.0	21.3
6 - 11	21.7	24.6	20.8	19.8	21.8	22.9
12 - 17	18.2	24.1	23.3	21.6	19.5	23.2
Race and Spanish Origin						
White	55.5	59.1	52.5	51.1	51.9	53.5
Non-white	8.7	10.6	11.2	11.9	12.4	13.9
Black	na	9.5	9.5	9.6	10.3	11.4
Spanish-origin	na	na	na	6.3	7.1	8.7
Children as Percentage of Total U.S. Population	36%	34%	28%	26%	26%	25%

Note: "Non-white" refers to all races other than white, and includes blacks, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except white. Blacks comprise the great majority of non-whites. People of Spanish origin can be of any race.

Source: "Preliminary Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex and Race: 1970 to 1981," Current Population Reports, Series P25, No. 917, Table 1; "Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex and Race: 1980 to 1985," Current Population Reports, Series P25, No. 985, Table 1; "Projections of the Population of the United States: 1983 to 2080," Current Population Reports, Series P25, No. 952, Table 6 (middle series); 1970 Census volume, "Characteristics of the Population, U.S. Summary," Table 52; 1960 Census volume, "Characteristics of the Population, U.S. Summary," Table 155; and "Projections of the Hispanic Population: 1983 to 2080," P-25, No. 995, Table 2 (middle series).

2. Number of Births. Although the fertility rate has remained low in recent years (see previous table), the annual number of births has risen -- fluctuating between 3.6 and 3.7 million since 1980 -- as the children of the baby boom have grown up and become parents themselves.

Births (in thousands)

	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Total	3,632	4,097	4,258	3,760	3,731	3,144	3,612	3,629	3,681	3,639	3,669
White	3,108	3,485	3,601	3,124	3,091	2,552	2,899	2,909	2,942	2,904	2,924
Non-white	524	613	657	636	640	592	714	721	738	735	746
Black	NA	NA	602	581	572	512	590	588	593	586	593

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States, Annual Natality Volumes for 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1975. Monthly Vital Statistics Report, "Advance Report-Final Natality Statistics" for 1980, Vol. 31, No. 8, Table 1; for 1981, Vol 32, No. 9, Table 1; for 1982, Vol. 33, No. 6, Table 1; for 1983, Vol. 34, No. 6, Table 1; for 1984, Vol. 35, No. 4, Table 1.

3. Fertility Rates. After the post-World War II baby boom, fertility rates fell dramatically among both non-whites and whites. Since the 1970s, these rates have shown relatively little change. The fertility rate remains higher among non-whites. The fertility rate of Hispanic women is about 50 percent higher than that of non-Hispanics.

Fertility Rate (Live Births per 1,000 Women Aged 15-44)

	1950	1960	1970	1975	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Total	106	118	88	66	68	67	67	66	65	66*
White	102	113	84	63	65	64	64	62	62	
Non-white	137	154	113	88	89	86	86	83	83	
Black	na	154	115	88	88	85	84	82	81	
Hispanic	na	na	na	na	95	98	96	na	na	
Non-Hispanic	na	na	na	na	67	65	65	na	na	

Note: Data on Hispanic origin were collected in 22 states in 1980 and 1981 and in 23 states in 1982. Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

*Provisional data from the National Center for Health Statistics.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States, Annual Natality Volumes for 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1975. Monthly Vital Statistics Report." Advance Report, Final Natality Statistics, 1980." Monthly Vital Statistics Report, "Annual Summary of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Divorces for 1981"; Monthly Vital Statistics Report, "Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths for 1982." Monthly Vital Statistics Report, "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1984," Vol. 35, No. 4, Supplement, Table 1; 1985 data from Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 34, No. 13. Hispanic data from Stephanie Ventura, "Births of Hispanic Parentage, 1980," Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 32, No. 6, Table 6; "Births of Hispanic Parentage, 1981," Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 33, No. 8; and "Births of Hispanic Parentage, 1982," Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 34, No. 4, Table 5.

4. Fertility Rates by Age. The number of births per 1,000 women in a particular age group -- the fertility rate -- has fallen in every age and race group except very young white teenagers. Rates for white women in their early thirties fell during the 1970s but have rebounded in recent years. Fertility rates among women in their forties are less than half what they were in 1970.

Births Per 1,000 Women in Age Group

	10-14 Years	15-17 Years	18-19 Years	20-24 Years	25-29 Years	30-34 Years	35-39 Years	40-44 Years	45-49 Years
All Races									
% Change: 1970 to 1984	0%	-18%	-32%	-36%	-25%	-9%	-28%	-52%	-60%
Annual rates for:									
1984	1.2	31.1	78.3	107.3	108.3	66.5	22.8	3.9	0.2
1983	1.1	32.0	78.1	108.3	108.7	64.6	22.1	3.8	0.2
1980	1.1	32.5	82.1	115.1	112.9	61.9	19.8	3.9	0.2
1975	1.3	36.1	85.0	113.0	108.2	52.3	19.5	4.6	0.3
1970	1.2	38.8	114.7	167.8	145.1	73.3	31.7	8.1	0.5
Whites									
% Change: 1970 to 1984	+20%	-18%	-33%	-38%	-26%	-8%	-28%	-53%	-50%
Annual rates for:									
1984	0.6	23.9	68.1	101.4	107.7	66.1	21.7	3.5	0.2
1983	0.6	24.8	68.3	102.6	108.0	64.0	21.0	3.5	0.2
1980	0.6	25.2	72.1	109.5	112.4	60.4	18.5	3.4	0.2
1975	0.6	28.0	74.0	108.2	108.1	51.3	18.2	4.2	0.2
1970	0.5	29.2	101.5	163.4	145.9	71.9	30.0	7.5	0.4
Blacks									
% Change: 1970 to 1984	-17%	-31%	-36%	-32%	-24%	-25%	-41%	-59%	-80%
Annual rates for:									
1984	4.3	69.7	132.0	137.9	103.2	59.5	24.8	5.1	0.2
1983	4.1	70.1	130.4	137.7	103.4	59.2	24.7	5.2	0.3
1980	4.3	73.6	138.8	146.3	109.1	62.9	24.5	5.8	0.3
1975	5.1	85.6	152.4	142.8	102.2	53.1	25.6	7.5	0.5
1970	5.2	101.4	204.9	202.7	136.3	79.6	41.9	12.5	1.0

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Monthly Vital Statistics Report, "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1984," Vol. 35, No. 4, Supplement, Table 4, pp. 17-18.

5. Births to Unmarried Women. The rate of childbirth among unmarried women (births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15-44) has more than doubled since 1950. In addition, the number of unmarried women has increased substantially. Hence, the number of babies born outside marriage is more than five times higher now than in 1950. While the number of births to unmarried women has risen, the number of births to married women has declined. Thus, the proportion of children born to unmarried women has been rising. Among blacks, nearly six in ten births now occur to unmarried women, despite a decline in the rate of births to black unmarried women. The proportion of all births to unmarried women accounted for by teenage mothers has declined since 1970.

Births to Unmarried Women

	1950	1960	1970	1975	1980*	1984*
Total Number (000s)	142	224	399	448	666	770
Number to Women Under Age 20 (000s)	59	92	200	223	272	270
Percent of Total Born to Women Under 20	42%	41%	50%	50%	41%	35%
Birth Rate (Births per 1,000 Unmarried Women 15-44)						
Total	14.1	21.6	26.4	24.5	29.4	31.0
White	6.1	9.2	13.9	12.4	17.6	20.1
Non-white	71.2	98.3	89.9	79.0	77.2	71.4
Black	na	na	95.5	84.2	82.9	76.8
Hispanic	na	na	na	na	52.0	na
Non-Hispanic	na	na	na	na	27.7	na
As Percent Of All Births						
Total	4.0%	5.3%	10.7%	14.2%	18.4%	21.0%
White	1.7	2.3	5.7	7.3	10.0	13.4
Non-white	16.8	21.6	34.9	44.2	48.5	50.8
Black	na	na	37.6	48.8	55.3	59.2
Hispanic	na	na	na	na	23.6	28.3
Non-Hispanic	na	na	na	na	18.5	20.8

*Since 1980, these numbers have been produced by a new method. This change has increased estimates of childbearing to unmarried women, particularly among older women. Since younger women account for the majority of all births to unmarried women, the overall effect of the new method has been small, increasing the estimated number of births to unmarried women in 1980 by 3.5 percent. (National Center for Health Statistics, Monthly Vital Statistics Report, "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1980," Vol. 31, No. 8, Supplement.)

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States, Annual Natality Volumes for 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1975; Monthly Vital Statistics Report, "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1980," Vol. 31, No. 8, Supplement, Tables 2 and 15, and "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1984," Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 35, No. 4, Supplement, Tables 2 and 10. "Births of Hispanic Parentage, 1980", Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 32, No. 6 Supplement, September 23, 1983, Tables 7 and 11; "Births of Hispanic Parentage, 1983-1984", Monthly Vital Statistics Report, forthcoming Spring 1987 (based on 23 reporting states and the District of Columbia).

6. Households With Children. Families with children, particularly married couples with children, represent a decreasing proportion of all households, while the proportion of non-family households has increased.

	Total Households and Percent Distribution By Type of Household			
	1970	1980	1984	1986
Total number of households	63.4 mil.	80.8 mil.	85.4 mil.	88.5 mil.
Percent distribution of households				
Family Households	81.2%	73.7%	72.6%	71.9%
Married couple, no children	30.3	29.9	30.1	29.7
Married couple, children 0-17	40.3	30.9	28.5	27.8
Male householder, children 0-17	45.3% { 0.5	38.4% { 0.8	36.3% { 0.9	35.8% { 1.1
Female householder, children 0-17	4.5	6.7	6.9	6.9
Other families, without children	5.6	5.4	6.0	6.3
Non-family Households	18.8	26.3	27.4	28.1

Note: The Bureau of the Census defines a family as a group of two or more persons residing together and related by birth, marriage, or adoption. A household consists of all those persons who occupy a housing unit. It includes related family members, and all unrelated persons, if any. A person living alone in a housing unit or a group of unrelated persons sharing a housing unit is counted as a household. A non-family household consists of a person or persons maintaining a household while living alone or with nonrelatives only. A householder is usually the person, or one of the persons, in whose name the home is owned or rented. If there is no such person in the household, the householder can be any adult household member. Labor force tabulations based on the civilian population only; data may not agree with published data due to differences in weighting procedures.

Source: Household data are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1984," Current Population Reports, Series P.20, No. 398, Table A; and unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

7. Female-Headed Families. The number of families with children under 18 has been increasing, especially those headed by females. The proportion of families headed by women has risen among both blacks and whites but remains substantially higher among blacks.

Number of Families With Children Under 18 (in millions)

	1960	1970	1980	1984	1986
Total families	25.66	28.81	31.02	31.05	31.67
Female-headed	1.89	2.93	5.45	5.91	6.11
White families	23.26	25.54	26.47	26.21	26.58
Female-headed	1.39	2.00	3.56	3.86	4.04
Black families	2.40	2.98	3.82	3.92	4.06
Female-headed	.50	.91	1.79	1.91	1.93

Percent Female-Headed

Total Families with children	7%	10%	18%	19%	19%
White	6	8	13	15	15
Black	21	31	47	49	48

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1985 (for 1960-1980), Table 66; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 411, "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1985" and earlier reports; and unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

8. Metropolitan and Central City Residence. Forty-six percent of all children under 18 years of age who live with one or both parents live in the suburbs of metropolitan areas. Black children are more than twice as likely as white children to live in the central cities of metropolitan areas. Hispanic children are highly concentrated in the major metropolitan areas, but they are more likely than black children to be living in the suburbs.

Metropolitan and Central City Residence, March 1986

	Number of Children (in thousands)	Percent Distribution
All children under 18 years living with one or both parents	61,143	100.0%
Living in metropolitan areas	46,829	76.6%
Inside central cities	18,445	30.2
Outside central cities	28,385	46.4
Living outside metropolitan areas	14,313	23.4
White children under 18 years living with one or both parents	49,985	100.0%
Living in metropolitan areas	37,565	75.2%
Inside central cities	12,273	24.6
Outside central cities	25,292	50.6
Living outside metropolitan areas	12,419	24.8
Black children under 18 years living with one or both parents	8,927	100.0%
Living in metropolitan areas	7,442	83.4%
Inside central cities	5,256	58.9
Outside central cities	2,186	24.5
Living outside metropolitan areas	1,485	16.6
Hispanic children under 18 years living with one or both parents	6,230	100.0%
Living in metropolitan areas	5,597	89.8%
Inside central cities	3,457	55.5
Outside central cities	2,140	34.3
Living outside metropolitan areas	623	10.0

Note: Comparisons with earlier years may be misleading because of changes in the sample design of the Current Population Survey and in the definition of metropolitan statistical areas.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, unpublished data. See also Table 9 in annual issues of Current Population Reports, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements."

9. Residence in Owned Housing, Rented Housing, and Publicly Subsidized Housing. A 65 percent majority of U.S. children under 18 live in housing that is owned by their parents or another household member. However, whereas nearly 70 percent of white children live in owned housing, approximately 60 percent of both black and Hispanic children live in rented housing. One in six black children and one in 18 Hispanic children lives in publicly subsidized housing. A majority of the 2.4 million children living in public housing are black or Hispanic. (Children living in owned housing are also assisted, but through the tax system.) White children make up 88 percent of the 39.4 million children who live in housing owned by a parent or other household member.

Housing Tenure of Families with Children Under 18, March 1985

	Number of Children (in thousands)	Percent Distribution
All children under 18 years living with one or both parents	60,784	100.0%
Living in:		
Owned housing	39,379	64.8%
Rented housing	21,405	35.2
Publicly subsidized housing	2,413	4.0
White children under 18 years living with one or both parents	49,829	100.0%
Living in:		
Owned housing	34,730	69.7%
Rented housing	15,099	30.3
Publicly subsidized housing	854	1.7
Black children under 18 years living with one or both parents	8,854	100.0%
Living in:		
Owned housing	3,498	39.5%
Rented housing	5,356	60.5
Publicly subsidized housing	1,473	16.6
Hispanic children under 18 years living with one or both parents	5,856	100.0%
Living in:		
Owned housing	2,430	41.5%
Rented housing	3,426	58.5
Publicly subsidized housing	333	5.7

Note: Housing tenure refers to that of the householder, who may or may not be the child's parent.

Source: Calculated from U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1985," Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 410, Table 9.

FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

1. Family Living Arrangements. As of 1986, nearly 15 million young people -- or close to 24 percent of all children under 18 -- were living in a single parent family with either their mother or father. Another 8 million young people were living with step-families, adoptive parents, relatives other than their biological parents, or with non-relatives. Nevertheless, nearly two-thirds were living with both of their biological parents.

U.S. Children Under 18, 1986

Child lives with:	Number (in millions)	Percentage of All Children
Both biological parents	40.2	64%
Mother only	13.2	21
Father only	1.6	3
One biological parent and one stepparent	5.5	9
Two adoptive parents	0.7	1
Grandparents or other relatives	1.3	2
Foster parents, other non-relatives, or in group quarters	0.3	<1
Total	62.8	100%

Source: Calculated from unpublished data from March 1986 Current Population Survey data, U.S. Bureau of the Census. Proportions adopted and living with remarried parents were estimated from the 1981 Child Health Supplement to the National Health Interview Survey and the 1982 National Survey of Family Growth.

2. Number of Parents. The proportion of children living with just their mother has risen among whites and blacks, but remains higher among black children. About 40 percent of all black children live in two-parent families and nearly one in fifteen lives with neither parent.

U.S. Children Under 18 (percent distribution)

	All Races			White			Black		
	1970	1982	1986	1970	1982	1986	1970	1982	1986
Percent living with:									
Two parents	84.9%	75.0%	73.9%	89.2%	80.8%	79.9%	58.1%	42.4%	40.6%
Mother only	10.7	20.0	21.0	7.8	15.3	15.7	29.3	47.2	50.6
Divorced	3.3	8.2	8.5	3.1	8.0	8.2	4.6	9.6	11.1
Married, spouse absent	4.7	5.6	5.3	2.8	4.3	4.1	16.2	13.6	12.0
Never married	0.8	4.4	5.7	0.2	1.6	2.3	4.4	20.8	24.9
Widowed	2.0	1.8	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.2	4.2	3.3	2.6
Father only	1.1	1.9	2.5	0.9	1.9	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.4
Neither parent	3.3	3.1	2.6	2.2	2.0	1.9	10.4	8.4	6.4

Note: Children living with two parents include those living with a parent and stepparent and those living with adoptive parents. Children living with neither parent include those living with relatives other than their parents, with non-relatives, or in group quarters. The small number of persons under 18 maintaining their own households are not included.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-83, Table 76; Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 380, Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1982; and unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

3. Children Living With Their Mothers Only. The increase in the number of children living only with their mothers has been due to an increase in marital disruption and births to unmarried women. The number of children living with a divorced mother more than doubled between 1970 and 1986, while the number living with an unmarried mother increased by a factor of six. (Some of the latter change is due to improvements in survey coverage and data coding.) The number living with a widowed mother fell by more than one third. Since 1982, the growth in the number of children living with divorced and separated mothers appears to have slackened off. The growth in the number of children born and raised out-of-wedlock has continued, but may have begun to slow in 1985.

Child lives with mother who is:	Number of Children Under 18 (in millions)				
	1970	1982	1985	1986	% Change 1970-86
Divorced	2.3 mil.	5.1 mil.	5.3 mil.	5.4 mil.	+135%
Separated	2.3	3.1	3.0	2.9	+ 26%
Never married	0.5	2.8	3.5	3.6	+620%
Widowed	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.9	- 36%
Total children living with mother only	7.5 mil.	12.5 mil.	13.1 mil.	13.2 mil.	+ 76%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 410, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1985" and earlier reports; and unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

4. Children Living With Their Fathers Only. Although children are still far more likely to live with their mothers than with their fathers after a divorce or birth outside of marriage, the number living with their fathers only has more than doubled in the last 15 years. As of 1986, more than a million and a half young people were living with their fathers only.

Child lives with father who is:	Number of Children Under 18 (in thousands)				
	1970	1982	1985	1986	% Change 1970-86
Divorced	177 thous.	658 thous.	750 thous.	796 thous.	+350%
Separated	152	255	329	289	+ 90%
Never married	30	114	260	318	+960%
Widowed	254	144	162	145	- 43%
Total children living with father only	748 thous.	1,189 thous.	1,554 thous.	1,579 thous.	+111%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 410, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1985" and earlier reports; and unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

5. Number of Children Per Family. The proportion of all families with 4 or more children has fallen sharply. There has been a corresponding rise in the proportion of families with no children or only one child. Similar changes took place for black families and families of Spanish origin, as for non-minority families, except that the proportion of black families with no children first fell before rising again in the mid 1970s.

Percent Distribution of Families by Number of Own Children Under 18 Years Old

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1983	1986
All families							
No children	43%	43%	44%	46%	48%	50%	50%
1 child	18	18	18	20	21	21	21
2 children	18	17	17	18	19	19	19
3 children	11	11	11	9	6	7	7
4 or more children	10	11	10	7	4	3	3
Black families							
No children	44%	40%	39%	37%	38%	40%	41%
1 child	16	17	18	22	23	24	23
2 children	13	14	15	17	20	19	20
3 children	10	10	10	11	11	11	10
4 or more children	18	19	18	14	8	6	6
Spanish origin							
No children	NA	NA	30%	29%	31%	32%	35%
1 child	NA	NA	20	23	22	23	22
2 children	NA	NA	19	20	23	24	24
3 children	NA	NA	13	13	13	12	12
4 or more children	NA	NA	18	15	10	9	7

Note: "Own children" includes biological, adopted, and step-children. The figures represent a cross-section of families at a given point in time, and as such do not reflect the distribution of families by the number of children they will ultimately have. For example, while 48% of families had no children in 1981, many of these families previously had or subsequently will have one or more children. Because the vast majority of U.S. families are white, the percent distributions for white families are very close to those for all families and so are not shown separately. The 1960 data for blacks include other races as well; the majority are black. Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-83, Table 70; Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1986, Table 64; Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 388, "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1983" earlier reports, and unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

6. Education of Parents. The level of educational attainment among parents of school-aged children has been rising, with especially dramatic increases among blacks. The educational level of black parents still lags behind that of whites, however. Nearly 60 percent of Hispanic students have parents who have not completed high school.

Percentage of Students Whose Parent Has 12 or More Years of Education

Child's School Level	Total			Whites			Blacks			Hispanics
	1970	1979	1985	1970	1979	1985	1970	1979	1985	1985
Elementary	62%	71%	78%	66%	75%	80%	36%	51%	67%	41%
High School	59	70	76	63	74	78	30	45	63	41%

Source: 1985 data from: Bureau of the Census, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1985," Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 410, Table 9; 1979 data from U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Social and Economic Characteristics of Students," Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 360, Table 11; 1970 data from U.S. Bureau of the Census, "School Enrollment: October 1970," Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 222, Table 12. Data on Hispanic students not available for earlier years.

7. Children With Mothers in the Labor Force. The proportion of children with mothers in the labor force has increased dramatically over the last decade and a half. However, only a slight increase occurred between 1985 and 1986. As of 1986, half of all children under 6 -- and more than 60 percent of those aged 6-17 -- had mothers who were working, or looking for work outside the home.

Percentage of Children With Mothers in Labor Force

	1970	1975	1980	1982	1985	1986
All children under 18	39%	44%	53%	55%	58%	58%
Children 0-5	29	36	43	46	49	50
Children 6-17	43	47	57	59	62	62

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, News, "Half of Mothers With Children Under 3 Now in Labor Force," August 20, 1986, Table 4; News, "Labor Force Activity of Mothers of Young Children Continues At Record Pace," September 19, 1985, Table 3; News, "Half of Nation's Children Have Working Mothers," November 15, 1981, Table 1; News, "Marital and Family Characteristics of Workers, March 1980," December 9, 1980, Table 6; and unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

8. Children With Mothers Who Work Full Time, Full Year. Of all children under 18 living with their mothers, 27 percent had mothers who worked full time, full year during 1984; 37 percent had mothers working less than full time, full year; and 33 percent had mothers who were not in the labor force for the entire year. Children in two-parent families were less likely to have a mother who worked full time, full year (25 percent) than children in mother-only families (32 percent). Additionally, younger children were less likely to have mothers who worked full time, full year than older children, with only 1 in 5 preschool children having a mother who worked full time all year in 1984. Hispanic children were the most likely to have a mother who was not in the labor force. Black children were the most likely to have a mother who worked full time throughout the year, while white children were the most likely to have a mother who was employed less than full time, full year.

Children by Mother's Employment in 1984
(Percent Distribution)

	Full time, Full year	Other Employment*	Not in Labor Force
Total, all children under 18 living in families with mother present	27%	37%	33%
Family Structure			
Two parents	25%	39%	34%
Mother only	32	29	32
Divorced	46	29	19
Never married	19	27	46
Separated	25	31	36
Widowed	29	28	36
Age of Child			
0-5 years old	20%	38%	39%
6-11 years old	27	37	33
12-17 years old	34	35	28
Race/Ethnicity			
White, Non-Hispanic	26%	40%	31%
Black, Non-Hispanic	33	27	32
Hispanic	21	27	49

*Includes "part time, full year," "full time, part year" and "part time, part year."

Note: Rows do not add up to 100% because the proportions of mothers who were unemployed for the entire year are not displayed in the table.

Source: Analysis by Child Trends, Inc. of public use data from the Census Bureau's March 1985 Current Population Survey. Tabulations produced by Technical Support Staff, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

9. Trends in Full Time and Part Time Employment of Mothers. It is still the case that a majority of mothers with children under 18 are not working full time at a given point in time. However, the proportion who are currently working full time has grown from 29 percent in 1975 to 41 percent in 1986. Among those with school-aged children, the proportion working full time increased from 34 to 48 percent, while for those with children aged 3-5, it grew from 27 to 39 percent. The greatest growth in full-time employment, however, has been among mothers whose youngest child is under 3. For these women, the proportion working full time increased from 19 to 30 percent. The proportions of mothers who work part time have also been increasing, but more modestly.

Percent of Mothers* Working Full Time, Working Part Time, Or Not in Labor Force, by Age of Youngest Child: 1975-1986

Working Full Time

	1975	1980	1985	1986
All mothers with children under 18	29%	37%	40%	41%
Age of Youngest Child				
Under 3	19%	24%	29%	30%
3 - 5	27	35	37	39
6 - 17	34	44	48	48

Working Part Time

	1975	1980	1985	1986
All mothers with children under 18	14%	15%	16%	16%
Age of Youngest Child				
Under 3	9%	13%	15%	15%
3 - 5	12	15	16	15
6 - 17	16	16	17	18

Not in Labor Force

	1975	1980	1985	1986
All mothers with children under 18	53%	43%	38%	37%
Age of Youngest Child				
Under 3	66%	58%	50%	49%
3 - 5	55	46	40	40
6 - 17	45	36	30	30

*Mothers here includes only mothers whose youngest child is under 18 years of age.

Source: Calculated from Bureau of Labor Statistics News, "Half of Mothers with Children Under 3 Now in Labor Force", August 20, 1986, and "Labor Force Activity of Mothers of Young Children Continues at Record Pace", September 19, 1985; and unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

10. Trends In Employment of Married Mothers. As of 1986, half of all married mothers with infant children 1 year old or under were working, or looking for work. In 1975, the comparable proportion was 31 percent, and in 1970, only 24 percent. By the time their youngest child is 4 years of age, nearly 60 percent of today's married mothers are in the work force.

Percentage of Married Mothers (of Children Under 18) Who Were In the Labor Force

Age of Youngest Child	1970	1975	1980	1985	1986
1 year or under	24%	31%	39%	49%	50%
2 years	31	37	48	54	54
3 years	35	41	52	55	56
4 years	39	41	51	60	57
5 years	37	44	52	62	64
Under 6 years, total	30%	37%	45%	54%	54%
6-17 years, total	49%	52%	62%	68%	69%
Total with children under 18	40%	45%	54%	61%	61%

Note: Data are for March of each year. Married mothers are currently married women with children under 18 and husbands present in the household. Children are defined as "own" children of the householders, which includes step- and adopted children, but excludes nieces, nephews, grandchildren, or foster children. The labor force comprises all persons classified as employed or unemployed. This table is parent based, whereas Table 7 is child based and includes children from single-parent households.

Source: Hayghe, Howard. "Rise in mothers' labor force activity includes those with infants." Monthly Labor Review. Vol. 109, No. 2, pp. 43-45, February 1986, Table 3, p. 45, and unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

11. Employment of Married Mothers and Single-Parent Mothers. Married mothers with school-aged children are less likely to be working outside the home than single-parent mothers. Among those with children aged 2-5, differences are in the same direction, but smaller. Among mothers of infants, the difference is reversed: married mothers of infants are more likely to be working than single mothers of infants. The labor force participation rates of black married mothers are considerably higher than those of white married mothers, especially at the preschool ages. Among single-parent mothers, on the other hand, black women are generally less likely than white women to be in the labor force.

Percentage of Mothers of Children Under 18
Who Were In the Labor Force, March 1986

Married Mothers with Husbands Present

Age of Youngest Child	Total	White	Black
1 year or under	50%	49%	67%
2 years	54	53	71
3 years	56	53	77
4 years	57	55	70
5 years	64	62	78
Under 6 years, total	54%	52%	71%
6-17 years, total	69%	67%	78%
Total with children under 18	61%	60%	75%

Women Maintaining Families On Their Own

Age of Youngest Child	Total	White	Black
1 year or under	45%	46%	43%
2 years	62	63	62
3 years	64	67	59
4 years	62	64	58
5 years	68	72	60
Under 6 years, total	58%	61%	54%
6-17 years, total	77%	80%	69%
Total with children under 18	70%	73%	62%

Source: Nayghe, Howard. "Rise in mothers' labor force activity includes those with infants." Monthly Labor Review, Vol. 109, No. 2, pp. 43-45, February 1986, Table 3, p. 45, and unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

12. Mother's Marital Status and Employment. Divorced and separated mothers are more likely to be in the labor force than are married mothers, although the differences have become smaller in recent years. Separated and divorced mothers are also more likely to be unemployed. Never-married mothers, on the other hand, are less likely than married mothers to be in the labor force, and yet, when in, they are especially apt to be unemployed. Regardless of marital status, mothers with older children are more likely to be in the work force and less likely to be unemployed than those with children under six.

Mother's Marital Status and Age of Children	Percentage of Mothers In Labor Force						Unemployment Rate (Percentage of Those in Labor Force Who Are Unemployed)					
	1970	1975	1980	1984	1985	1986	1970	1975	1980	1984	1985	1986
All mothers												
Children 0-5	32%	39%	47%	52%	54%	54%	8.2%	14.4%	10.0%	12.2%	10.9%	11.0%
Children 6-17 only	52	55	64	68	70	70	5.0	7.7	5.4	6.9	7.1	6.3
Married, spouse present												
Children 0-5	30	37	45	52	53	54	7.9	13.9	8.3	8.9	8.0	7.6
Children 6-17 only	49	52	62	65	68	68	4.8	7.2	4.4	5.0	5.5	4.8
Separated												
Children 0-5	45	49	52	54	53	57	13.3	23.7	12.3	24.9	22.9	16.5
Children 6-17 only	61	59	66	70	71	71	5.9	12.9	10.6	13.1	14.6	11.7
Divorced												
Children 0-5	63	66	68	68	68	74	5.2	10.4	13.6	14.3	12.1	12.9
Children 6-17 only	82	80	82	84	83	85	6.5	9.1	6.7	9.7	9.0	8.2
Never married												
Children 0-5	na	36	44	44	47	48	na	24.8	29.2	32.7	28.5	34.6
Children 6-17 only	na	61	68	70	64	66	na	18.9	15.6	21.3	15.4	17.7

Note: Data are for March of each year. The labor force comprises all persons classified as employed or unemployed. Employed persons are those at work in a job or business, or who have a job or business from which they are temporarily absent due to such factors as illness, vacation, and labor disputes. Unemployed persons are those who do not have a job or business but have made specific efforts to find a job in the last four weeks, or are waiting to return to an old job or report to a new one.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, News, "Half of Mothers With Children Under 3 Now in Labor Force," August 20, 1986, Tables 1 and 3; News, "Labor Force Activity of Mothers of Young Children Continues At Record Pace," September 19, 1985, Table 1; Special Labor Force Reports, Nos. 13, 130, and 134.; Bulletin 2163, and unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

13. Child Care Arrangements. Children under five years of age with employed mothers are more likely to be cared for outside their own home in recent years, particularly if their mothers work full-time. Much of the increase in out-of-home care has been due to increases in the use of group care centers or of care provided in the home of non-relatives.

Type of Child Care Arrangements for Youngest Children Under Five Who Have Employed Mothers (Percent Distribution)

	1958*	1965*	1977	1982
Mother Employed Full-time				
Care in Child's Home	56.6%	47.2%	28.6%	27.1%
By father	14.7	10.3	10.6	10.9
Other	41.9	36.9	18.0	16.2
Care in Another Home	27.1	37.3	47.4	46.2
Relative	14.5	17.6	20.8	20.8
Non-relative	12.7	19.6	26.6	25.4
Group Care Center	4.5	8.2	14.6	19.8
Other Arrangements	11.8	7.4	9.3	6.9
Mother Employed Part-time				
Care in Child's Home	NA	47.0%	42.7%	41.2%
By father		22.9	23.1	21.3
Other		24.2	19.6	19.9
Care in Another Home	NA	17.0	28.8	35.7
Relative		9.1	13.2	16.4
Non-relative		7.9	15.6	19.3
Group Care Center	NA	2.7	9.1	7.9
Other Arrangements	NA	33.2	19.4	15.2

*Data for 1958 and 1965 are for children under 6 years old.

Note: Data are based on survey questions that asked only about care arrangements for youngest child in the family, if that child was under five years of age. Percentages have been recalculated after removal of cases in "Don't know" category.

Source: Calculated from U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Child Care Arrangements of Working Mothers: June 1982," and "Trends in Child Care Arrangements of Working Mothers," Current Population Reports, Series P23, Nos. 129 and 117, Table A in each report.

14. Adopted Children. In 1981, nearly 1.3 million children -- 2 percent of the total child population under 18 -- were living with adopted parents (i.e., with biologically unrelated adults who had legally adopted them). Families that adopted unrelated children were disproportionately of white, non-minority ethnic background. Nearly three-quarters of these children were adopted at birth or during the first year of their lives. More than 85 percent were living with two adoptive parents; but 11 percent were living with only one adoptive parent (usually as a result of the disruption of the adoptive parents' marriage); and 3 percent, with one adoptive parent and one stepparent.

Number and Characteristics of Adopted and Non-Adopted Children Under 18, 1981

	Adopted Children	Non-Adopteds	Total
Number of Children (000's)	1,258	61,884	63,142
Percent of all children	2%	98%	100%

Child and Family Characteristics	Adopted Children: Number (000's)	Adopted Children: Percent Distribution	Non-Adopteds: Percent Distribution
Total	1,258	100%	100%
Age of Child			
0-5	213	17%	32%
6-11	401	32	32
12-17	674	51	36
Sex of Child			
Male	668	53%	51%
Female	590	47	49
Race/Ethnicity of Family			
White	1,067	85%	74%
Black	121	10	15
Hispanic	37	3	9
Asian, Other	26	2	2
When Child Adopted			
In 1st Year of Life	926	74%	-
Later	332	26	-
Child Now Lives With:			
Mother and Father	1,080	86%	69%
Mother only	113	9	19
Father only	28	2	2
Mother and Stepfather	21	2	7
Father and Stepmother	16	1	2

14. Adopted Children (continued).

Characteristics of Adopted and Non-Adopted Children Under 18, 1981

Child and Family Characteristics	Adopted Children — Percent Distribution	All Non-Adopteds — Percent Distribution	White Children Born Out-of-Wedlock, Raised by Biological Mothers* — Percent Distribution
Total	100%	100%	100%
Parent Education			
(More Educated Parent)			
Some college or more	58%	40%	21%
High school grad. only	31	41	51
Less than high school grad.	11	19	29
Family Income			
$25,000 or more	53%	35%	14%
$10,000-$24,999	39	43	30
Less than $10,000	7	22	56
Welfare Status			
Families receiving AFDC	<1%	8%	32%
Mother's Age			
40 or over	58%	26%	12%
30-39	40	47	31
Under 30	2	27	57
Psychological Help			
Proportion of children (ages 3-17) who had ever received psychological counselling for an emotional, mental, or behavior problem	15%	6%	15%
Of those adopted in infancy:	10%		
Of those adopted later:	30%		

*White children born out-of-wedlock and raised by their biological mothers are shown as a comparison group because adopted children are predominantly white and most were born out-of-wedlock. These children are also included under the "All Non-Adopteds" group. The number of black children born out-of-wedlock and raised by their mothers is relatively large and the socioeconomic circumstances of these children are extremely poor. Thus, inclusion of these children in the second comparison group would have exaggerated the comparative advantages of the adopted group.

Note: As defined here, "adopted children" does not include children who live with a biological parent and a stepparent, even if the child has been legally adopted by the stepparent.

Source: Analysis by Child Trends, Inc. of public use data from the Child Health Supplement to the 1981 National Health Interview Survey. Data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Health Interview Statistics.

15. **Foster/Substitute Care.** Over a quarter of a million children were in foster/substitute care during 1984. Turnover in such care is high: nearly equal numbers, about 180,000, entered and left care during the year; and the median length of time in foster/substitute care was 17 months. Foster care children are disproportionately black; they are distributed throughout the range of ages, but tend especially to be in their adolescent years. The numbers of children awaiting adoption, in non-finalized adoptive homes, and completing adoption during the year are roughly equal. Adopted children and those about to be adopted are disproportionately young -- half are under 6 years of age. Those awaiting adoption tend to be somewhat older.

National Estimates of Children in State Foster/Substitute Care and Adoption Systems, 1984

	Entering Substitute Care	In Substitute Care	Leaving Substitute Care	Awaiting Adoption	In Non-Finalized Adoptive Homes	Adopted During The Year[a]
Total Number (in thousands)	184	276	180	15-17	16-18	19-21
Characteristics:						
Race-Ethnicity						
White	60%	53%	61%	52%	54%	57%
Black	23	33	22	37	28	26
Hispanic	10	8	9	6	7	7
Other Minority	5	5	6	4	10	9
Don't Know	2	1	2	1	<1	1
Number of States Reporting Ethnicity	28	41	28	29	27	29
Percent of Total Children	63%	78%	59%	47-53%	55-62%	52-58%
Age						
< 1 year	10%	3%	5%	2%	20%	11%
1-5 years	25	21	22	25	36	41
6-12 years	15	28	23	47	32	34
13-18 years	40	44	46	26	10	12
19 years and over	1	3	3	<1	<1	<1
Median age	10.5	12.3	12.8	9.0	4.4	4.8
Number of States Reporting Age	28	33	27	20	21	24
Percent of Total Children	68%	68%	62%	31-35%	44-49%	46-51%

[a]Data on the number of children adopted only cover those children adopted through state systems. They exclude children solely the responsibility of private agencies or placed independently.

Note: Total numbers are estimates derived from the 1984 Voluntary Cooperative Information System Substitute Care Population, which is used for reports to Congress under PL 96-272, the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980. Ethnic and age breakdowns are calculated from actual unweighted numbers of children in each category in the reporting states.

Source: Unpublished analyses of FY 1984 child welfare data from the Voluntary Cooperative Information Systems (VCIS) of the American Public Welfare Association (APWA).

INCOME

1. Median Family Income. When corrected for inflation, the median family income of children living in families rose from 1964 into the early 1970s, reaching a high of $30,501 in 1973. The median was relatively stable through the rest of the 1970s, but began to fall between 1979 and 1980, concurrent with recessions in the national economy. The recent decline turned around in 1984, although in real terms the median family income of children in 1985 remained below the levels of 1980, 1975 and 1970. Children living in husband-wife families enjoy roughly three times the family income of children in mother-only families.

Median Family Income
of Children Living in Families

	1964	1970	1975	1979	1980	1981	1983	1984	1985
Current dollars									
All types of families	$6,711	$10,227	$13,915	$19,732	$20,939	$22,041	$23,306	$25,334	$26,720
Husband-wife families	NA	11,041	15,534	22,258	23,846	25,636	27,190	29,831	31,451
Mother-only families	NA	4,145	5,501	7,734	7,938	8,653	8,563	9,162	9,472
Constant (1985) dollars									
All types of families	$23,275	$28,333	$27,813	$29,244	$27,336	$26,071	$25,165	$26,238	$26,720
Husband-wife families	NA	30,588	31,049	32,988	31,131	30,323	29,359	30,895	31,451
Mother-only families	NA	11,483	10,995	11,462	10,363	10,235	9,246	9,489	9,472

Note: Data are for related children under 18 (i.e., biological, step-, and adopted children of the householder, and any other children related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption). The medians are based on children. That is, each child is characterized by the income of its family, and the median for all children is computed. Thus, of all children living in families in 1981, half were in families with incomes greater than $22,041, and half were in families with lower incomes. Mother-only families are those having a female householder with no husband present. Constant dollars are calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, unpublished data for 1985.

Source: Calculated from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P60, No. 47, Table 5; No. 80, Table 19; No. 105, Table 24; No. 132, Tables 16,17,30; No. 137, Table 27; No. 146, Table 27; No. 151, Table 19; P23, No. 114, Table 42; and unpublished data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

2. Median Family Income By Race and Spanish Origin. The median family income of white children is half-again as much as that of children of Spanish origin, and twice that of black children. Some of the overall income difference between black and white children is due to the greater proportion of black children living in mother-only families. Between 1979 and 1985, the median family income of children in all types of families declined, when measured in constant dollars. The relative declines were especially large for Spanish origin children in husband-wife families, and for black children in mother-only families.

Median Family Income of Related Children Under 18, 1979, 1985

	All Types of Families		Husband-Wife Families		Mother-Only Families	
	1979	1985	1979	1985	1979	1985
Current Dollars						
All children	$19,732	$26,720	$22,258	$31,451	$7,734	$ 9,472
White	21,058	28,988	22,714	32,153	9,058	11,296
Black	10,675	14,879	17,369	24,867	6,565	7,267
Spanish origin	14,067	17,027	16,543	21,415	5,934	7,368
Constant (1985) Dollars						
All children	$29,244	$26,720	$32,987	$31,451	$11,462	$ 9,472
White	31,209	28,988	33,664	32,153	13,425	11,296
Black	15,821	14,879	25,742	24,867	9,730	7,267
Spanish origin	20,848	17,027	24,518	21,415	8,795	7,368

Note: Related children under 18 include biological, step-, and adopted children of the householder, and any other children related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption. The medians are based on children (see notes, previous table). The category "Spanish origin" includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin. Origin is determined by asking "What is (this person's) origin or descent?" Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race. Mother-only families are those having a female householder with no husband present. Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, unpublished data for 1985.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P23, No. 114, Table 42, and unpublished data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

3. Children in Poverty. Children are more likely than any other age group to be living in poverty -- more than one in 5 children lives in poverty. The proportion of children who are poor declined sharply in the 1960s; it reached a low of 14.1 percent in 1969. Rises in the rate of poverty in the 1970s and into the 1980s corresponded with periods of recession in the national economy. Since 1983 the rates have again declined slightly, except for Hispanic children. Black and Hispanic children are especially likely to be living in poverty. The poverty rates of children in female-headed families are especially high, varying between 51 and 56 percent since 1970. The proportion of elderly who are poor declined during both decades, and continued to decline into the 1980s.

Percentage of Persons Below Poverty

	1959	1970	1975	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
All persons									
Related children under 18									
All children	26.9%	14.9%	16.8%	17.9%	19.5%	21.3%	21.8%	21.0%	20.1%
White	20.6	10.5	12.5	13.4	14.7	16.5	17.0	16.1	15.6
Black	65.3	41.5	41.4	42.1	44.9	47.3	46.2	46.2	43.1
Spanish origin	NA	NA	33.1	33.0	35.4	38.9	37.7	38.7	39.6
Persons 65 or older	35.2	24.6	15.3	15.7	15.3	14.6	13.8	12.4	12.6
Persons of all ages	22.4	12.6	12.3	13.0	14.0	15.0	15.2	14.4	14.0

	1959	1970	1975	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Persons in families with female householder, no husband present									
Related children under 18									
All children	72.2%	53.0%	52.7%	50.8%	52.3%	56.0%	55.4%	54.0	53.6%
White	64.6	43.1	44.2	41.6	42.8	46.5	47.1	45.9	45.2
Black	81.6	67.7	66.0	64.8	67.7	70.7	68.3	66.2	66.9
Spanish origin	NA	NA	68.4	65.0	67.3	71.8	70.6	71.0	72.4
Persons 65 or older	49.2	41.1	26.4	27.8	27.4	25.4	23.8	22.1	23.2
Persons of all ages	50.2	38.2	34.6	33.8	35.2	36.2	35.6	34.0	33.5

Note: Related children under 18 include biological, step-, and adopted children of the householder, and any other children related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption. The poverty level is based on money income and does not reflect receipt of non-cash benefits such as food stamps. Different levels are set according to the size and composition of the family. The levels are revised each year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. In 1985 the average poverty level for a family of four was $10,989. In 1975 it was $5,456.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P60, No. 154, Table 16.

4. Proportion of Children Receiving Aid to Families With Dependent Children. After rising in the 1960s and early 1970s, the proportion of U.S. children receiving AFDC has stabilized. One in 9 children receives some assistance from AFDC.

Percentage of Children Under 18 Years of Age Receiving AFDC

	1960	1970	1975	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Percentage	3.7%	10.1%	12.1%	11.9%	11.3%	11.1%	11.4%	11.3%	11.4%

Note: Data are for December of each year.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-3, Tables 27 and 559; Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1986, Tables 25 and 643; Current Population Reports, P25, No. 985, Table 1, and unpublished data from the Office of Family Assistance, DHHS.

5. AFDC Eligibility. Primary eligibility for receiving AFDC is determined by a means test based on income and the absence or incapacity of a parent. Among children eligible because of income, out-of-wedlock birth has replaced divorce and separation as the leading basis for eligibility. Together, these causes are the basis for eligibility for 85 percent of AFDC families.

AFDC Eligibility by Basis (percent distribution)

Basis for Family Eligibility	1969	1975	1979	1981	1982	1983	1984
Divorce/separation	27.4%	48.0%	44.7%	41.8%	39.6%	38.5%	38.2%
Out-of-wedlock	27.9	31.0	37.8	43.8	46.5	44.3	46.4
Father deceased	5.5	3.7	2.2	1.5	.9	1.8	1.9
Father unemployed	4.6	3.7	4.1	5.1	6.0	8.7	8.6
Father incapacitated	11.7	7.7	5.3	4.1	3.5	3.4	3.6
Other	22.9	5.9	5.9	3.7	3.5	3.1	1.2

Note: Eligibility for 1969-1982 is based on reason for father absence. AFDC children with absent mothers (about 1%) are included in "other" category. Eligibility for 1983-1984 is based on reason for absence of either parent.

Source: Social Security Administration, 1979 Recipient Characteristics Study, Part I, Demographic and Program Statistics, Table 18; and Findings of the 1969 AFDC Study, Part I, Demographic and Program Characteristics, Table 13; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1985, Table 642; AFDC Quality Control Survey, 1983, and unpublished data from the Office of Family Assistance.

6. Non-Cash Benefits. While childhood poverty persists, the character of poverty is affected by the availability of a number of non-cash benefits. One-quarter of households with children 0-18 receive one or more of the four main means-tested non-cash benefits -- free or reduced-price school lunches, food stamps, Medicaid, and subsidized rental housing. The proportions of households receiving each benefit, as well as receiving any of these benefits, have changed little in the last few years.

	Percentage of Households With Children 0-18 Receiving Benefit				
Benefit Program	1979	1980	1981	1982	1984
Free or reduced-price school lunches*	18.7%	20.9%	20.4%	21.5%	21.4%
Food Stamps	11.8	13.1	13.5	14.0	13.3
Medicaid**	12.1	12.7	13.0	12.7	12.7
Subsidized housing***	12.5	12.9	13.8	14.1	14.4
One or more of the above benefits	23.4	25.0	25.0	NA	NA

* Based on households with children 5 to 18 years old.
** Based on children covered by the program rather than children actually receiving a Medicaid-paid service during the year.
*** Based on households in renter-occupied housing.

Source: Calculated from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 135, Table 1; P-60, No. 143, Table B; P-60, No. 150, Table B.

7. Child Support. Barely one third of women with children under 21 whose fathers are absent receive child support payments from the absent fathers. The average amounts received are small among all groups and have declined from 1978 to 1983 (after adjusting for inflation) for all groups except college graduates. Both the likelihood of support and the amount of support received are highest when the mother is legally divorced, is white, or has a college education.

Women With Minor Children From an Absent Father, 1978, 1983

	Number in U.S. Population (in millions)		Percent Awarded Child Support Payments		Percent Who Received Any Child Support*		Mean Annual Support Received**	
	1978	1983	1978	1983	1978	1983	1978	1983
All women with minor children from an absent father	7.1 m.	8.7 m.	59%	58%	35%	35%	$2,747	$2,341
Number of own children								
One child	3.6 m.	4.4 m.	55%	56%	30%	34%	$1,967	$1,777
Two children	2.1	2.8	65	62	42	39	3,047	2,782
Three children	0.8	1.0	62	57	36	33	3,861	2,943
Four children or more	0.5	.4	57	46	34	26	4,203	3,705
Current Marital Status								
Divorced	2.4 m.	3.2 m.	80%	76%	52%	50%	$2,979	2,491
Remarried	2.0	2.1	77	76	39	41	2,446	2,164
Separated	1.3	1.5	45	41	27	21	2,911	2,682
Never married	1.4	1.9	11	18	6	9	1,490	1,132
Race and Spanish Origin								
White	5.1 m.	6.2 m.	71%	67%	43%	42%	$2,842	$2,475
Black	1.9	2.3	29	34	14	16	1,976	1,465
Spanish origin	0.5	.8	44	41	24	20	2,013	1,839
Educational Attainment								
Less than 12 years	2.4 m.	2.2 m.	46%	42%	23%	21%	$2,295	$1,535
High school graduate	3.2	4.2	64	61	38	37	2,541	2,159
Some college	1.1	1.5	69	64	43	41	3,190	2,332
College graduate	0.5	.7	71	71	52	51	3,931	4,118

*Percentages shown are based on all women with children from an absent father, not just those with child support awards.

**By those who received any support. Figures are in constant 1983 dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1985, Table 789.

Note: Own children includes both biological and adopted children.

Source: Calculated from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P23, No. 112, Table B; P23, No. 141, Table 1.

8. Sources of Income of Families With Children. Among two-parent families, the earnings of wives have become increasingly important as a source of family income, especially for blacks. Public cash transfers are a minor source of income for two-parent families of all ethnic groups. Among female-headed families, the earnings of the householder have increased in importance, while public cash transfers have decreased, especially for Spanish origin families. Nevertheless, public cash transfers still make up a substantial portion of the income of female-headed families.

	Two-Parent Families		Female-Headed Families	
Families with children	1967	1984	1967	1984
All				
Earnings of Male Householder	79.3%	69.3%	-	-
Earnings of Female Householder	11.1	19.0	44.1	56.6
Public Cash Transfers	2.1	2.9	21.4	18.0
Other Income Sources	7.1	8.8	34.5	25.5
White				
Earnings of Male Householder	80.2%	70.4%	-	-
Earnings of Female Householder	10.6	18.0	45.8	57.3
Public Cash Transfers	2.0	2.7	18.6	15.1
Other Income Sources	7.2	8.9	35.6	27.6
Black				
Earnings of Male Householder	66.6%	56.5%	-	-
Earnings of Female Householder	19.6	31.1	38.9	55.6
Public Cash Transfers	3.9	5.0	30.0	24.9
Other Income Sources	10.1	7.4	31.2	19.5
Spanish Origin				
Earnings of Male Householder	71.7%	66.3%	-	-
Earnings of Female Householder	14.4	19.6	31.6	43.8
Public Cash Transfers	4.8	4.5	42.2	29.1
Other Income Sources	9.1	9.8	26.2	27.1

Source: Danziger, Sheldon, & Peter Gottschalk, "How Have Families With Children Been Faring?" Discussion Paper No. 801-86 (Madison, Wisconsin: Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin, 1986), Table 11 and unpublished tabulations by Sheldon Danziger.

9. Quintile Shares of Aggregate Family Income of Families with Children. The aggregate share of the income of families with children that is received by the lowest income quintile of families was only 4 percent in 1984, compared with 42 percent for the highest income quintile. Between 1967 and 1984 the aggregate income share of the lowest quintile of families has fallen steadily. This has been the case for all families and for black, white, and Spanish origin families.

	Quintile Share of Aggregate Family Income			
Families with children	1967	1973	1979	1984
All races/origins				
Lowest fifth	6.6%	5.8%	5.2%	4.2%
2nd	13.4	12.8	12.3	11.2
3rd	18.0	18.0	18.5	17.5
4th	23.5	24.1	24.6	25.0
Highest fifth	38.5	38.3	39.4	42.1
White				
Lowest fifth	7.3%	6.5%	5.9%	4.7%
2nd	13.7	13.3	12.9	12.0
3rd	18.0	18.0	18.5	18.0
4th	23.1	23.7	24.5	24.3
Highest fifth	37.8	38.5	38.2	41.0
Black				
Lowest fifth	5.3%	4.8%	4.1%	3.5%
2nd	10.9	10.4	9.4	8.2
3rd	17.0	16.6	15.8	15.1
4th	24.4	25.1	26.0	25.2
Highest fifth	42.4	43.2	44.6	48.0
Spanish Origin				
Lowest fifth	NA	6.0%	4.8%	4.1%
2nd	NA	11.8	10.8	9.9
3rd	NA	17.3	17.1	17.0
4th	NA	24.4	24.8	25.4
Highest fifth	NA	40.5	45.5	43.6

Note: Quintiles are defined separately for each of the four types of families.

Source: Danziger, Sheldon, & Peter Gottschalk, "How have families with children been faring?" Discussion Paper No. 801-86 (Madison, Wisconsin: Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin, 1986), Table 5.

EDUCATION

1. School Enrollment. The number of children enrolled in school declined between 1970 and 1984, reflecting the decline in the school-aged population. The total number enrolled is expected to rise sharply, increasing from 45.1 million in the fall of 1985 to 47.9 million in the fall of 1993, due to increases in the number of births in recent years. Elementary and secondary enrollment trends are expected to contrast sharply, however, with enrollments in the lower grades increasing while those in the upper grades continue to fall. The proportion enrolled in private schools has increased slightly since 1980. The proportion of preschool children enrolled in nursery or other schools rose sharply during the 1970s, but has leveled off in the 1980s.

Enrollment in Schools

	1970	1975	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1990 (projected)
Enrollment in grades K-12 in regular public & private schools (1,000's)	51,272	49,791	46,318	45,599	45,252	45,043	45,005	45,050	45,669
Grades K-8	36,629	34,187	31,666	31,345	31,356	31,288	31,229	31,220	33,525
Grades 9-12	14,643	15,604	14,652	14,255	13,896	13,754	13,776	13,830	12,144
Enrollment in private schools as a percent of total enrollment									
Grades K-8	11.1%	10.8%	12.6%	13.1%	13.4%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.7%
Grades 9-12	9.0	8.3	9.1	9.8	10.1	10.2	10.2	10.1	9.9
Percent enrolled in school by age									
Ages 3-4	20.5%	31.5%	36.7%	36.0%	36.4%	37.5%	36.3%	38.9%	na
Ages 14-17	94.1	93.6	93.4	94.1	94.4	95.0	94.7	94.9	na

Note: Beginning in 1980, data on public/private enrollment include a larger number of private schools than were previously included. Therefore, comparisons with percents and numbers before 1980 are not warranted. Private school enrollment for 1975, 1981, and 1982 are estimated. All data for 1984 are preliminary and for 1985, estimated.

Source: Digest of Education Statistics 1985-86, Tables 4 and 6, and Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 409, Table 2.

2. Preprimary Enrollment. The number of 3 - 6 year olds enrolled in nursery and kindergarten programs increased from about 4.3 million in 1970 to about 6.3 million in 1986, a 48 percent increase. Preprimary enrollment is expected to climb to more than 7.1 million by 1993. The growth in the number of 3-year-olds enrolled has been particularly dramatic, with the number enrolled in public schools nearly tripling, and the total enrolled increasing by 144 percent, between 1970 and 1986.

Number of Children (In Thousands) Enrolled in Preprimary Programs, Fall 1970 to Fall 1993

	Fall of Year								
	1970	1975	1980	1985	1986	1990	1993	Change 1970-1986	Percent Change 1970-1986
				(Estimated		(Projected)			
3 - 6 Year Olds									
In Public Schools	2,981	3,425	3,322	3,865	3,931	4,220	4,358	950	+32%
In Private Schools	1,298	1,716	1,840	2,339	2,404	2,664	2,803	1,106	+85%
Total Enrollment	4,279	5,141	5,162	6,204	6,335	6,884	7,161	2,056	+48%
3 Year Olds									
In Public Schools	123	191	237	352	364	409	432	241	+196%
In Private Schools	332	492	620	721	745	838	884	413	+124%
Total Enrollment	455	683	857	1,073	1,109	1,247	1,316	654	+144%
4 Year Olds									
In Public Schools	494	645	602	728	754	853	910	260	+ 53%
In Private Schools	512	773	821	1,069	1,106	1,251	1,335	594	+116%
Total Enrollment	1,006	1,418	1,423	1,797	1,860	2,104	2,245	854	+ 85%

Note: Numbers include prekindergarten and kindergarten enrollments in regular public schools and enrollments in independently operated public and private nursery schools and kindergartens.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics, The Condition of Education, 1985 Edition, 1986. Table 1.3. For details of projection methodology, see Projections of Education Statistics to 1992-1993, 1985.

3. High School Graduation Ratio. The proportion of students graduating from high school on time rose until 1970. It has been in the 70-75 percent range for the past 25 years. The ratio has been consistently slightly higher for girls.

Ratio of High School Graduates per 100 Persons 18 Years of Age

	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1983	1984	1985
Total	55.5	63.1	72.2	70.8	76.9	74.2	72.0	73.3	74.4	74.0
Male	52.4	60.3	69.7	69.6	75.8	72.4	69.6	72.0	na	na
Female	58.6	65.8	74.7	72.1	78.2	75.9	74.4	74.7	na	na

Note: The graduation ratio equals the number of high school graduates divided by the resident U.S. population aged 18 for that year. (The denominator includes Armed Forces overseas in 1950-1955.) The graduation ratio does not represent the proportion who will ultimately complete high school. For example, in 1981 the proportion of persons aged 25-34 who reported that they had completed four years of high school or more was 85.6% (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P20, No. 374, Table 6-3). However, the graduation ratio does approximate the proportion who graduate from high school on time, and reflects changes over time and group differences.

Source: Calculated from Population Estimates, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Series P-25, No. 311 and 519, 721, and 985, Table 2; Digest of Education Statistics 1985-86, Table 2; Statistical Abstract of the U.S., 1986, Table 249; and unpublished data from the Center for Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

4. High School Dropout and College Entrance. High school dropout rates are relatively high among students with low cognitive test performance; of low socio-economic status; and from non-Asian minority backgrounds. Seniors who enter post-secondary education within two years tend to have opposite characteristics. They tend to have high test scores; to be of high socioeconomic status; and to come from Asian or non-minority backgrounds. They are also disproportionately female, and are likely to have taken an academic program in high school. Some 12 percent of high school students with high test scores have not gone on to post-secondary education within 2 years of high school graduation.

1982 School Status of 1980 High School Students

	Sophomores in 1980 Who Had Dropped Out By 1982	Seniors in 1980 Who Had Entered Post Secondary Education By 1982			
		Total*	4-Year College	2-Year College	Vocational/ Technical Institutions
Total	14%	63%	35%	25%	8%
Sex					
Male	15%	59%	34%	23%	6%
Female	13	66	36	26	9
Race/Ethnicity					
White	12%	64%	37%	25%	7%
Black	17	60	33	20	11
Hispanic	18	52	20	28	9
Asian	3	86	51	37	4
American Indian	29	53	20	22	14
Socioeconomic Status					
High	5%	86%	61%	27%	5%
Middle	9	63	32	27	8
Low	17	46	19	20	9
Cognitive Test Performance					
High	3%	88%	69%	21%	4%
Middle	9	65	33	30	8
Low	19	40	11	20	11
High School Program					
Academic	4%	86%	64%	24%	5%
General	13	55	24	27	9
Vocational/ Technical	19	44	11	25	11

*Note: The percentage of seniors entering each type of institution adds to more than total because some entered more than one type.

Source: Center for Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, High School and Beyond, Two Years in High School: The Status of 1980 Sophomores in 1982, Table 1; and Two Years After High School: A Capsule Description of 1980 Seniors, Table 3.

5. Educational Programs for the Handicapped. Between 1976-77 (the beginning of state data collection) and 1984-85, the total number of handicapped children served by education programs for the handicapped increased by about 17 percent. The total number of all students, on the other hand, declined by about 11 percent. The number of students receiving special education in the category of learning disability has increased 130 percent, and the number receiving special services as the result of serious emotional disturbance has increased 31 percent. Other categories experienced little change or declines. Declines in the numbers served in some categories are partly due to the decrease in the overall size of the school-aged population.

	Percentage of Total Public School Enrollment by Type of Handicap					Number of Children Served (in Thousands)				
	1976-77	1978-79	1981-82	1983-84	1984-85	1976-77	1978-79	1981-82	1983-84	1984-85
All Conditions	8.33%	9.14%	10.47%	10.98%	10.98%	3,692	3,889	4,198	4,298	4,315
Learning Disabled	1.80	2.66	4.05	4.62	4.66	796	1,130	1,622	1,806	1,832
Speech Impaired	2.94	2.85	2.83	2.88	2.86	1,302	1,214	1,135	1,128	1,126
Mentally Retarded	2.16	2.12	1.96	1.86	1.77	959	901	786	727	694
Seriously Emotionally Disturbed	.64	.71	.85	.92	.95	283	300	339	361	372
Hearing Impaired	.20	.20	.19	.18	.18	87	85	75	72	69
Orthopedically Handicapped	.20	.16	.14	.14	.14	87	70	58	56	56
Visually Handicapped	.09	.08	.07	.07	.07	38	32	29	29	28
Deaf-Blind	na	.01	.01	.01	.01	na	2	2	2	2
Other Health Impaired	.32	.25	.20	.13	.17	141	105	79	53	68
Multihandicapped	na	.12	.18	.17	.18	na	50	71	65	69

Note: The availability of special resources for disabled students has been significantly affected by the enactment of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and P.L. 94-142, The Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975. Implementation of the regulations for these laws came into effect in 1977 and school year 1978-79 respectively.

Source: The Condition of Education, 1985, Table 4.1; Eighth Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Education of the Handicapped Act, Vol. 1, 1986, Table GA1; Digest of Education Statistics, 1986, Table 4; and Zill, N., The School-Age Handicapped, NCES Contractor Report 85-400, U.S. Department of Education, 1985.

6. Enrollment of Preschool Handicapped Children. The number of children enrolled in preschool programs for handicapped children went from less than 200,000 in 1976-77 to nearly 260,000 in 1984-85, a 32 percent increase.

Number Enrolled and Percent Change in Enrollment of Preschool Handicapped Children*

	School Year									
	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	Change 1976-77 to 1984-85
Number Served	196,223	200,589	214,885	231,815	233,793	227,612	242,111	243,087	259,483	63,260
Percent Change from Previous Year		+2.2%	+7.1%	+7.9%	+0.9%	-2.6%	+6.4%	+0.4%	+6.7%	+32.2%

* Figures represent the numbers of preschool children served under Part B of the Education of the Handicapped Act, P.L. 94-142.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Education, Eighth Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Education of the Handicapped Act, 1986.

7. Reading Achievement. Since 1970-71, reading proficiency scores have increased modestly for the three age groups tested: 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds. The gains for blacks have exceeded those for whites, but scores for blacks remain considerably lower in comparison with whites. The reading proficiency of girls has been consistently above that for boys by a modest amount.

National Assessment of Educational Progress
Reading Proficiency

	1970-1	1974-5	1979-80	1983-4
Total				
9-year-olds	207	210	214	213
13-year-olds	254	255	257	258
17-year-olds	284	285	285	288
Race-Ethnicity, Age 9				
White	214	216	220	220
Black	169	182	189	188
Hispanic	na	183	189	193
Race-Ethnicity, Age 13				
White	260	261	263	263
Black	220	224	232	237
Hispanic	na	231	236	239
Race-Ethnicity, Age 17				
White	290	291	291	295
Black	241	244	246	264
Hispanic	na	255	262	269
Sex, Age 9				
Male	201	204	209	210
Female	213	215	219	216
Sex, Age 13				
Male	248	248	253	254
Female	260	261	262	262
Sex, Age 17				
Male	278	279	281	283
Female	290	290	288	293

Note: The means represent weighted general reading proficiency scores on a 0-500 scale. (A score in the 150 range represents "rudimentary" reading ability; in the 200 range, "basic" proficiency; 250, "intermediate" proficiency; 300, "adept" reading skills; and 350, "advanced" reading ability.) National Assessment test results are based on national probability samples of students at the specified age levels. Reading tests were conducted in 1971, 1975, 1980, and 1984 for 9- and 17-year-olds, and in 1970, 1974, 1979, and 1983 for 13-year-olds.

Source: The Reading Report Card, Educational Testing Service, 1985.

8. Mathematics Achievement. After declining in the mid 1970s, the level of achievement in mathematics of 13-year-olds rose in the early 1980s. Mathematics achievement of 17-year-olds also declined in the 1970s, but had not recovered by 1981-82. Achievement levels of 9-year-olds have not changed over this period. Although blacks continue to trail whites at all ages, 13-year-old blacks have made greater gains than 13-year-old whites. The performance of boys is nearly equal to that of girls at ages 9 and 13, but boys score somewhat higher at age 17.

National Assessment of Educational Progress
Mathematics Achievement Test Scores
(Mean Percent Correct)

	On Items Common to All Three Assessments		
	1972-73	1977-78	1981-82
Age			
9-year-olds	39.8%	39.1%	38.9%
13-year-olds	53.7	52.2	56.4
17-year-olds	55.0	52.1	51.8

	On Items In Last Two Assessments	
	1977-78	1981-82
Race/Ethnicity		
9-year-olds		
All Students	55.8%	56.4%
White	58.1	58.8
Black	43.1	45.2
Hispanic	46.6	47.7
13-year-olds		
All Students	56.6%	60.5%
White	59.9	63.1
Black	41.7	48.2
Hispanic	45.4	51.9
17-year-olds		
All Students	60.4%	60.2%
White	63.2	63.1
Black	43.7	45.0
Hispanic	48.5	49.4
Sex		
9-year-olds		
Male	55.3%	55.8%
Female	55.3	56.9
13-year-olds		
Male	56.4%	60.4%
Female	56.9	60.6
17-year-olds		
Male	62.0%	61.6%
Female	58.8	58.9

Note: National Assessment test results are based on national probability samples of students at the specified age levels. Different tests were used for each age, so comparison between age groups for any given year is not appropriate. Data in the top part of the table are based on items comparable over all three assessments; data in the lower part, on items comparable over the last two assessments. Consequently, comparison across years for any given group is appropriate. In this analysis, white, black and Hispanic are non-overlapping categories.

Source: The National Assessment of Educational Progress, The Third National Mathematics Assessment: Trends and Issues, Report No. 13-MA-01 (Denver, Colorado: Education Commission of the States, April, 1983), Tables 1.1; and Digest of Education Statistics, 1985-86, U.S. Department of Education, Table 21.

9. Scholastic Aptitude Test Scores. In 1982, average SAT scores turned up slightly for the first time since 1963. Further increases in both mathematics and verbal scores have occurred in recent years. However, average levels are still considerably below those obtained in the early 1960s. Males score substantially higher than females on mathematics, and, since 1976, slightly higher on the verbal test. Although blacks continue to score lower, on the average, than whites, the gap has narrowed somewhat in recent years. The scores of other race and ethnic groups are intermediate between those of blacks and whites, with the exception of Asian/Pacific students who score exceptionally high on the mathematics portion.

Average SAT Scores

	1963	1970	1976	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Mathematics score									
Overall Mean	502	488	472	466	466	467	468	471	475
Sex									
Male	na	509	497	491	492	493	493	495	499
Female	na	465	446	443	443	443	445	449	452
Race									
White	na	na	493	482	483	483	484	487	490
Black	na	na	354	360	362	366	369	373	376
American Indian	na	na	420	426	425	424	425	427	428
Asian/Pacific	na	na	518	509	513	513	514	519	518
Ethnic Group									
Mexican Americans	na	na	410	413	415	416	417	420	426
Puerto Ricans*	na	na	na	na	396	398	397	400	405
Verbal score									
Overall Mean	478	460	431	424	424	426	425	426	431
Sex									
Male	na	459	433	428	430	431	430	433	437
Female	na	461	430	420	418	421	420	420	425
Race									
White	na	na	451	442	442	444	443	445	449
Black	na	na	332	330	332	341	339	342	346
American Indians	na	na	388	390	391	388	388	390	392
Asian/Pacific	na	na	414	396	397	398	395	398	404
Ethnic Group									
Mexican Americans	na	na	371	372	373	377	375	376	382
Puerto Ricans*	na	na	na	na	361	367	365	366	373

*Does not include Puerto Ricans in Puerto Rico.

Note: Whereas results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress are based on probability samples of U.S. students, SAT averages are based on self-selected sub-groups of the student population. Thus, changes over time in SAT averages may be at least partly due to changes in the number and composition of students taking the tests. It is the case, however, that National Assessment also found declines in high-level reading skills and in student knowledge in areas such as science, citizenship, literature, and music during the 1970s.

Sources: College Entrance Examination Board, Profiles, College-Bound Seniors, 1981-1985, News from the College Board, October 14, 1982; and Austin, G. R. & Garber, H. (Eds.) The Rise and Fall of National Test Scores, Academic Press, 1982.

HEALTH AND HEALTH-RELATED BEHAVIOR'

1. Prenatal Care. As of 1984, one birth in 20 was to a mother who received either late care or none at all. During the early 1970s, there was a substantial increase in the proportion of pregnant women receiving early prenatal care. The increase was especially marked among black women. Since 1978, however, there has been virtually no reduction in the percentage of pregnant women receiving late or no prenatal care. Black women remain less likely to receive early care than white women. Hispanic women, especially those of Puerto Rican origin, are less likely to receive early care than non-Hispanic women.

Percentage of Live Births

	1970	1972	1974	1976	1978	1980	1984
Prenatal care began:							
First trimester							
All races and origins	68%	70%	72%	74%	75%	76%	77%
White	72	74	76	77	78	79	80
Black	44	49	54	58	60	63	62
All Hispanic women	na	na	na	na	na*	60%	62%
Cuban						83	82
Mexican						60	60
Puerto Rican						55	57
Non-Hispanic women						77	77
Third trimester or no prenatal care							
All races and origins	8%	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%
White	6	6	5	5	5	4	5
Black	17	13	11	10	9	9	10
All Hispanic women	na	na	na	na	na*	12%	13%
Cuban						4	4
Mexican						12	13
Puerto Rican						16	16
Non-Hispanic women						5	5

*Data for Hispanic women are available for 1978, but because they are based only on 17 reporting states and account for only an estimated 60% of all Hispanic or Spanish origin births in 1978, these data are not shown.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Health, United States, 1982, Table 24; Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 31, No. 8 Supplement, November, 1982, Tables 13, 20, Vol. 35, No. 4 Supplement, July 1986, Table 25, and unpublished data. Birth figures for Hispanic women in 1984 are based on data for 23 States and the District of Columbia which report Hispanic origin of the mother on the birth certificate. These states accounted for 90 percent of the Hispanic population in 1980. Hispanic data for 1980 from: Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 32, No. 6, Supplement Sept. 1983, Table 13 (based on 22 states).

2. Prenatal Care and Maternal Characteristics. More than three-quarters of the women who had babies in 1984 initiated prenatal care during their first trimester. Teenaged mothers were less likely than older mothers to receive prenatal care in the first three months of their pregnancies and more likely to receive care in the third trimester or no prenatal care at all. Mothers with less than a high-school education were less apt to get early prenatal care than mothers with more education. Late prenatal care and the total lack of care were also more common among unmarried mothers in comparison with married mothers, and among blacks in comparison with whites.

Percent Distribution of Live Births By Month Prenatal Care Began and Mother's Age, Education, Marital Status and Race, 1984

	All months	Month Care Began 1st-3rd month	4th-6th month	7th-9th month	No Pre-natal Care
All live births	100%	77%	18%	4%	2%
Mother's age at birth of child					
Less than 15	100%	35%	45%	15%	6%
15-19	100%	54	34	8	3
20-24	100%	73	21	5	2
25-34	100%	84	12	2	1
35 or more	100%	81	15	3	2
Mother's education					
0-8 years	100%	53%	32%	10%	5%
9-11 years	100%	59	31	8	3
12 years	100%	78	18	3	1
13-15 years	100%	85	12	2	1
16 years or more	100%	92	7	1	<1
Mother's marital status					
Married	100%	82%	14%	3%	1%
Unmarried	100%	55	32	9	4
Mother's race					
White	100%	80%	16%	3%	1%
Black	100%	62	28	6	3

Note: Figures for the total line and for age, race, and marital status based on birth certificates from 50 reporting states and the District of Columbia. Figures for education based on birth certificates from 47 reporting states and the District of Columbia. Tabulations exclude cases with missing data, which constitute a very small proportion of all births. Due to rounding, numbers do not always add up to 100%.

Source: Age of mother and race of child: National Center for Health Statistics, "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics," Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 35, No. 4, Supplement, July 15, 1986, Table 25. Education of mother: Table 1-45A, 1984 (unpublished tabulation). Marital status of mother: Vital Statistics of the United States, 1984, Vol. I, Natality (in preparation): Table 1-46.

3. Low Birth Weight. There has been a slight decline in the proportion of children born with a low birth weight, but essentially no decline in the proportion born with an extremely low birth weight. Black children continue to be twice as likely to be born with a low birth weight. Puerto Rican children are more likely to be of low birth weight than children from other Hispanic groups or non-Hispanic children.

Percentage of Live Births
Less Than 1500 And Less Than 2500 Grams

	1970	1972	1974	1976	1978	1980	1984
Low birthweight							
2,500 grams or less							
All races and origins	7.9%	7.7%	7.4%	7.3%	7.1%	6.8%	6.7%
White	6.8	6.5	6.3	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.6
Black	13.9	13.6	13.1	13.0	12.9	12.5	12.4
All Hispanic women	na	na	na	na	na*	6.1%	6.2%
Cuban						5.6	5.9
Mexican						5.6	5.7
Puerto Rican						9.0	8.9
Non-Hispanic women						7.0	6.9
1,500 grams or less							
All races	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
White	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Black	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.6

*Data for Hispanic women are available for 1978, but because they are based only on 17 reporting states and account for only an estimated 60% of all Hispanic or Spanish origin births in 1978, these data are not shown.

Note: Prior to 1979, low birth weight and extremely low birth weight were defined as weighing 2,500 grams or less and weighing 1,500 grams or less, respectively. In 1979, the definition was changed so that low birth weight was defined as weighing less than 2,500 grams and extremely low birthweight as weighing less than 1,500 grams. The pounds and ounces equivalents to these figures are as follows:
2,500 grams or less = 5 lbs. 9 oz. or less;
1,500 grams or less = 3 lbs. 5 oz. or less;
Less than 2,500 grams = 5 lbs. 8 oz. or less;
Less than 1,500 grams = 3 lbs. 4 oz. or less.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Health, United States, 1982, Table 24; Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 31, No. 8 Supplement, November, 1982, Tables 13, 20, Vol. 35, No. 4 Supplement, July 1986, Table 25, and unpublished data. Birth figures for Hispanic in 1984 women are based on data for 23 States and the District of Columbia which report Hispanic origin of the mother on the birth certificate. These states accounted for 90 percent of the Hispanic population in 1980. Hispanic data for 1980 from: Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 32, No. 6 Supplement, Sept. 1983, Table 14 (based on 22 states).

4. Birth Weight According to Mother's Age and Race. Very young mothers are the most likely to bear a low birth weight baby. The incidence of low birth weight declines when childbearing women are in their twenties and early thirties, after which the proportion of low birth weight babies rises again. Despite an overall decline in the incidence of low birth weight, children born to young and black mothers remain disproportionately likely to be of low birth weight.

Mother's Race and Age	Percent of Births That Are of Low Birth Weight			
	1970	1975	1980	1984
All Races				
All Ages	7.9%	7.4%	6.8%	6.7%
<15	16.6	14.1	14.6	13.6
15-17	10.5	11.1	10.5	10.3
18-19		9.3	8.8	8.8
20-24	7.4	7.1	6.9	6.9
25-29	6.9	6.1	5.8	5.9
30-34	7.5	6.8	5.9	5.9
35-39	8.7	8.2	7.0	6.7
40+	9.2	9.5	8.3	8.3
Whites				
<15	12.5	11.3	11.2	10.8
15-17	8.6	8.1	8.6	8.5
18-19			7.2	7.2
20-24	6.4	6.0	5.7	5.7
25-29	6.2	5.4	5.0	5.0
30-34	6.7	6.1	5.1	5.1
35-39	7.8	7.3	6.2	5.9
40+	8.4	8.7	7.4	7.4
Blacks				
<15	19.1	16.2	17.2	15.6
15-17	15.7	14.8	14.2	13.9
18-19			13.7	13.2
20-24	13.4	12.8	12.6	12.2
25-29	12.2	11.2	11.2	11.7
30-34	12.3	11.8	11.1	11.7
35-39	13.4	13.2	11.7	12.6
40+	12.9	13.0	12.3	13.5

Note: Since 1979, low birth weight has been defined as less than 2500 grams or 5 pounds 8 ounces or less. (See note to Table 3.)

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Monthly Vital Statistics Report, "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1984," Vol. 35, No. 4, Supplement, Table 15; "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1980," Vol. 31, No. 8, Supplement, Table 13; and "Trends in Births to Older Mothers," by Stephanie Ventura, Vol. 31, No. 2 Supplement (2), Table 8.

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5. Birth Weight And Prenatal Care. The proportions of both low and very low birth weight babies are 3-to-4 times higher for mothers who receive no prenatal care. Among mothers who do receive prenatal care, there is a slightly higher proportion of low birth weight babies for those whose care began in the second or third trimester.

Percent Distribution of Live Births
By Birth Weight And Month
Prenatal Care Began, 1984

	All Birth Weights	Child's Birth Weight: Less Than 1500 Grams	1500 to 2500 Grams	2500 grams or More
All live births	100%	1%	6%	93%
Prenatal care began:				
1st-3rd month	100%	1%	5%	94%
4th-6th month	100%	1	7	92
7th-9th month	100%	1	7	93
No prenatal care	100%	6	13	81

Note: Data are based on birth certificates from all states and the District of Columbia. Tabulations exclude cases with missing data, which constitute a very small proportion of all births. Less than 1500 grams = 3 pounds, 4 ounces or less. Less than 2500 grams = 5 pounds, 8 ounces or less.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, unpublished tabulations supplied by the Division of Vital Statistics.

6. Infant Mortality. The infant mortality rate fell slowly and irregularly during the 1950s, steadily and dramatically from 1965 to 1977, and steadily but much more slowly since 1977. The rate still remains nearly twice as high among blacks as among whites.

Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births

	1950	1960	1965	1970	1975	1977	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
All Races	29.2	26.0	24.7	20.0	16.1	14.1	12.6	11.9	11.5	11.2	10.8	10.6*
Whites	26.8	22.9	21.5	17.8	14.2	12.3	11.0	10.5	10.1	9.7	9.4	na
Blacks	43.9	44.3	41.7	32.6	26.2	23.6	21.4	20.0	19.6	19.2	18.4	na

* Provisional data

Note: The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths of children under age 1 per 1000 live births.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Health, United States, 1982, Table 11. Data for 1981 and 1982 from National Center for Health Statistics, "Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths for 1982," Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 31, No. 12; "Advance Report of Final Mortality Statistics, 1979," Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 31, No. 6, Supplement, Table 20, Vol. 33, No. 3, Supplement, Table 10, Vol. 33, No. 9, Supplement, Table 11, Vol. 33, No. 13, Table A, and Vol. 34, No. 6 Supplement (2), Table 11.

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7. Deaths of Infants and Young Children Due to Homicide and Undetermined Injury. In 1984, there were approximately 8 deaths per 100,000 infants due to undetermined injury or homicide, and 3 such deaths per 100,000 children aged 1-4. These rates of violent death have fluctuated within a fairly narrow range since 1970.

Homicide and Undetermined Injury Death Rates for Infants and Children Aged 1-4

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Homicide & Undetermined Injury Deaths (rate per 100,000)									
Infants	na	na	7.9	8.9	7.8	8.4	8.7	6.8	8.1
Children 1-4	na	na	3.2	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.2	2.8	2.8
Homicide (rate per 100,000)									
Infants	4.8	5.5	4.3	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.7	5.3	6.5
Children 1-4	0.7	1.1	1.9	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.3	2.4

Note: "Homicide and Undetermined" is the sum of the homicide victimization rate and the death rate due to "injury undetermined whether accidentally or purposefully inflicted."

Source: Philip J. Cook and John H. Laub, "Trends in child abuse and juvenile delinquency," unpublished manuscript, May, 1985, citing the Public Health Service, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States, Vol. II Mortality, Part A, various years; and unpublished data provided by the National Center for Health Statistics.

8. Deaths Among Children and Youth from Diseases and Accidents. Health conditions among infants account for most mortality prior to adolescence. By adolescence, about as many young people die from accidents and violence as from diseases and health conditions. Death rates are generally higher among black children and youth than among white young people, with the most notable disparities occurring in infancy and young adulthood. In both the first year of life and the 15-24 age group, death rates for blacks due to diseases and health conditions are approximately twice as high as those for whites. Among youth 15-24, whites have higher non-disease-related death rates because they are at greater risk of dying in motor vehicle accidents.

Total Deaths By Age
Among U.S. Children and Youth, 1984

	Number of Deaths			Death Rates (per 100,000 young people)		
Age Group	All Races	Whites	Blacks	All Races	Whites	Blacks
Less than 1	39,580	27,608	10,881	1086	932	1964
1- 4	7,372	5,413	1,679	52	47	79
5-14	9,076	7,011	1,829	27	25	35
15-24	38,817	31,515	6,331	97	95	112

Deaths Due to Diseases and Health Conditions

	Number of Deaths			Death Rates (per 100,000 young people)		
Age Group	All Races	Whites	Blacks	All Races	Whites	Blacks
Less than 1	37,742	27,020	10,659	1035	912	1924
1- 4	4,558	3,347	1,054	32	29	49
5-14	4,878	3,747	994	14	14	19
15-24	19,016	14,062	4,487	47	42	79

Deaths Due to Accidents, Poisoning, or Violence

	Number of Deaths			Death Rates (per 100,000 young people)		
Age Group	All Races	Whites	Blacks	All Races	Whites	Blacks
Less than 1	1,838	588	222	50	20	40
1- 4	2,814	2,066	625	20	18	29
5-14	4,198	3,264	835	12	12	16
15-24	19,801	17,453	1,844	49	52	33

Source: Calculated by Child Trends, Inc. from unpublished data furnished by the Statistical Resources Branch, National Center for Health Statistics. The data are from the Vital Registration System, which reports cause of death as recorded on the death certificates of each State.

9. Homicide Deaths Among Children and Youth. Homicide rates among children and youth have leveled off or declined in the 1980s, with the decline for older youth (15-24 years of age) being the most pronounced. Overall, however, murders of children and youth continue to be much more common now than they were two or three decades ago. Homicide rates are highest for older adolescents and young adults. Among children, the rates are higher for infants and preschoolers than for school-aged children. The rates for male youths are about 3 times the rates for female youths among whites, and 4 times higher among blacks. The rates for black youth are 3 to 6 times higher than those for white youth. Despite recent declines, homicide rates for young black males remain extremely high.

Number of Deaths By Homicide and Legal Intervention Per 100,000 Resident Population

	1960*	1970	1975	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Age								
Under 1 year	4.8	4.3	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.7	5.3	6.5
1- 4 years	0.7	1.9	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.3	2.4
5-14 years	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.3
15-24 years	5.9	11.7	13.7	15.6	14.7	13.7	12.4	12.0
Whites aged 15-24								
Male	4.4	7.9	11.2	15.5	14.4	13.1	11.5	11.1
Female	1.5	2.7	4.0	4.7	4.3	4.4	3.7	4.3
Blacks aged 15-24								
Male	46.4	102.5	90.5	84.3	78.2	72.0	66.8	61.5
Female	11.9	17.7	20.6	18.4	16.9	15.3	15.7	14.8

*Includes deaths of non-residents of the United States

Note: In addition to homicide, the table includes deaths by legal intervention, that is, as a result of police action or execution. Such deaths are rare among young children.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Health, United States, 1982, Table 21; Health, United States: 1985, Table 24; and unpublished data furnished by the Statistical Resources Branch.

10. Deaths Among Teenagers Due To Motor Vehicle Accidents, Homicide, and Suicide. In 1984, there were nearly 7,400 deaths due to motor vehicle accidents among teenagers aged 13-19. This was slightly more than the number in the preceding year, but considerably less than the 10,600 teen deaths due to automobile accidents recorded in 1979. Death rates (deaths per 100,000 persons in the age group) for motor vehicle accidents involving teenagers have also generally been lower in recent years. Nevertheless, the number of teen deaths in 1984 due to motor vehicle accidents represented twice the number of teen deaths due to homicide and suicide combined. Death rates attributable to motor vehicle accidents increase sharply with age in the teen years, as young people become eligible for licenses and do more driving.

Number of Deaths, and Death Rates Among Teenagers Due to Motor Vehicle Accidents, Homicide, or Suicide: 1979-1984, By Year and Age Group

Number of Deaths

Cause of Death and Age Group	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Motor Vehicle Accidents						
Ages 13-14	1,062	1,014	967	896	855	871
Ages 15-17	4,474	4,185	3,583	3,043	2,777	2,965
Ages 18-19	5,045	4,915	4,365	3,897	3,622	3,510
Total (Ages 13-19)	10,581	10,114	8,915	7,836	7,254	7,346
Homicide						
Ages 13-14	180	188	214	175	166	198
Ages 15-17	880	949	830	751	649	621
Ages 18-19	1,311	1,304	1,241	1,186	993	943
Total (Ages 13-19)	2,371	2,441	2,285	2,112	1,808	1,762
Suicide						
Ages 13-14	141	130	149	176	182	205
Ages 15-17	742	743	739	708	749	778
Ages 18-19	1,046	1,054	1,031	1,022	928	914
Total (Ages 13-19)	1,929	1,927	1,919	1,906	1,859	1,897

Death Rates
(per 100,000 population)

Cause of Death and Age Group	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Motor Vehicle Accidents						
Ages 13-14	9.4	9.3	9.0	8.2	7.6	7.9
Ages 15-17	35.4	33.8	30.0	26.6	25.1	27.0
Ages 18-19	58.0	56.5	51.7	46.4	44.1	45.2
Homicide						
Ages 13-14	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.8
Ages 15-17	7.0	7.6	7.0	6.6	5.9	5.7
Ages 18-19	15.1	15.0	14.7	14.1	12.1	12.1
Suicide						
Ages 13-14	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.9
Ages 15-17	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.8	7.1
Ages 18-19	12.0	12.1	12.2	12.2	11.3	11.7

Note: See preceding and following entries for additional data concerning mortality among young people and further discussion of homicide and suicide trends.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, unpublished work tables prepared by the Mortality Statistics Branch, Division of Vital Statistics.

11. Teen Suicide. Nearly 1,900 teenagers aged 12-19 took their own lives in 1984. The suicide rate of teens aged 15-19 has more than doubled since 1960, although most of the increase had taken place by 1978. Among subgroups, only black females have a rate in 1984 that is less than twice the 1960 rate. Suicide rates are higher for older teenagers than for younger teens, for males than for females, and for whites than for blacks.

Number of Suicide Deaths and Suicide Death Rates
Among Teenagers Aged 12-19, 1960-84

Number of Deaths

Population Groups	1960	1970	1975	1978	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
All teenagers									
Ages 12-14	na	na	na	141	130	149	176	182	205
Ages 15-19	475	1,123	1,594	1,788	1,797	1,770	1,730	1,677	1,692

Death Rates

(per 100,000 persons in age group)

Population Groups	1960	1970	1975	1978	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
All teenagers									
Ages 12-14	na	na	na	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.9
Ages 15-19	3.6	5.9	7.5	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.7	8.7	9.0
White males									
Ages 12-14	na	na	na	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.7	2.5	3.0
Ages 15-19	5.9	9.4	12.9	14.3	15.0	14.9	15.5	15.1	15.8
White females									
Ages 12-14	na	na	na	1.0	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.7	1.0
Ages 15-19	1.6	2.9	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.8	3.4	3.5	3.8
Black males									
Ages 12-14	na	na	na	0.4	0.9	0.4	1.6	1.3	1.6
Ages 15-19	2.9	4.7	6.1	6.7	5.6	5.5	6.2	6.5	5.9
Black females									
Ages 12-14	na	na	na	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	1.7	0.2
Ages 15-19	1.1	2.9	1.5	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7

Note: See also data on teen suicide in preceding entries.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, unpublished work tables prepared by the Mortality Statistics Branch, Division of Vital Statistics.

12. Officially Reported Child Maltreatment. The total number of reports of child maltreatment made to child protective service agencies has risen sharply from 669,000 in 1976, when the collection of such statistics on a national basis began, to 1.7 million in 1984. Rates of reported maltreatment per 1,000 children have also risen. Among children reported to be maltreated, the leading type of maltreatment is neglect (the deprivation of necessities). Minor physical injuries are next in frequency. Children reported to be maltreated are disproportionately young (preschool age) and non-white.

Number and Rate of Child Maltreatment Reports

	1976	1980	1982	1984	1985*
Number of child maltreatment reports (000's)	669	1,154	1,262	1,727	1,877
Rate per 1,000 children	10.1	18.1	20.1	27.3	29.8
Proportion substantiated	na	na	na	42%	45%

Characteristics of Children Reported as Maltreated, 1984

Type of Maltreatment**	
Physical injury	
Major	3%
Minor	18
Unspecified	4
Neglect	55
Sexual maltreatment	11
Emotional maltreatment	11
Other maltreatment	10
Age	
0-5	43%
6-11	33
12-17	24
Sex	
Male	48%
Female	52
Race	
White	67%
Black	21
Hispanic	10
Other	3

*Figures for 1985 do not include maltreatment reports from Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Trust Territories.

**Percent for type of maltreatment adds to more than 100 because a child may be reported as maltreated in more than one way.

Note: The number of reports of maltreatment in a year exceeds the number of children maltreated by an unknown percent because of duplicate cases -- children for whom two or more reports of maltreatment are on record. Increases over time in reports of child maltreatment could be due to better reporting practices (especially improvements instigated by legislation mandating such reports in some states), to actual increases in levels of maltreatment, or both. The validity of either explanation cannot be determined from the data. Moreover, many cases of maltreatment go unreported. Consequently, levels of actual maltreatment and of reported maltreatment could change at different rates or even in opposite directions. Less than half the reported cases are substantiated upon investigation by child protective services agencies. However, states differ considerably in their definition of substantiation, and it is possible that some unsubstantiated cases do involve actual maltreatment (and that some substantiated cases do not).

Source: American Association for Protecting Children, Inc., Highlights of Offical Child Neglect and Abuse Reporting, 1984 (Denver, Colorado: The American Humane Association, 1986); Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, Abused Children in America: Victims of Official Neglect, 1987.

13. Communicable Diseases. Many communicable diseases that were once common to childhood have been eradicated or greatly reduced in frequency. The annual incidence of reported measles cases, for example, has fallen from 245 cases per 100,000 U.S. citizens in 1960, a few years before a vaccine for measles became available, to just over 1 case per 100,000 in the 1980s. The goal of totally eliminating measles has not been attained, however. And some communicable diseases of childhood, such as chickenpox, have yet to be conquered.

Number of Reported Cases of Specific Diseases Per 100,000 Persons in U.S. Population

Disease	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985*
Measles	245	135	23	11	6	1	1	1	1	1
Rubella	na	na	28	8	2	1	1	<1	<1	<1
Pertussis	8	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mumps	na	na	56	28	4	2	2	2	1	1
Chickenpox	na	na	na	78	97	100	94	100	138	na

*Provisional data.

Note: Data are based on cases of notifiable diseases reported to state and territorial health agencies and thence to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. Completeness of reporting varies greatly, inasmuch as not all cases receive medical care and not all treated conditions are reported. State laws and regulations mandate disease reporting, but reporting to the CDC by states and territories is voluntary.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Health: United States, 1982, Table 26; Health: United States, 1985, Table 30. Data for 1984 and 1985 supplied by Centers for Disease Control, Division of Immunization.

14. Immunization Among Preschool Children. Since 1975, the proportions of children aged 1-4 who have been immunized against each of several major childhood diseases have leveled off or declined. For mumps, the proportion immunized rose from 1975 to the early '80s, but now appears to have leveled off.

Percentage of Children 1-4 Immunized, According to Disease

	1970	1975	1980	1981	1983	1984
Measles	57%	66%	64%	64%	65%	63%
Rubella	37	62	64	65	64	61
D.P.T.*	76	75	66	68	66	66
Polio*	78	65	59	60	57	55
Mumps	-	44	57	59	60	59

*Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus, 3 doses or more; Polio, 3 doses or more

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Health: United States, 1985, Table 29; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-83, Table 187. Data from United States Immunization Survey, annual, Centers for Disease Control.

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15. Immunization Among Children Entering School. There has been notable progress since the late 1970s toward universal immunization of school-aged children, due largely to most schools requiring proof of immunization as a condition of admission. By the time they enter school, 96 percent or more of kindergarten and first-grade pupils have been immunized against each of the childhood diseases listed below.

Percentage of Children Entering Kindergarten or First Grade Immunized Against Specific Diseases, By School Year

Disease	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1984-85
Measles	93%	94%	96%	97%	98%
Rubella	91	93	96	97	98
Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus	92	94	96	96	97
Polio	92	93	95	96	96
Mumps	83	86	92	95	97

Source: U.S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control, Division of Immunization. Data from annual School Enterer Assessment.

16. Parent Ratings of Children's Health Status. When U.S. parents are asked to rate the health of their children on a scale from "excellent" to "poor," eight out of ten children are described as being in very good or excellent health. Between 2 and 3 percent are rated in fair or poor health. Black children and children from low-income families are less likely to be described as being in excellent health -- and more likely to be rated in fair or poor health -- than non-minority children and those from more affluent families. The overall distribution of child health ratings has not changed significantly in recent years.

Health Ratings for Preschool and School-Aged Children, By Race and Family Income in 1985, and By Year, 1983-85
Percent Distributions

Parent Rating of Child's Health	Preschool Children (Under 5 years) Race, 1985 Total	Whites	Blacks	School-Aged Children (5-17 years) Race, 1985 Total	Whites	Blacks
Excellent	54.7%	57.2%	42.4%	52.0%	54.4%	39.4%
Very Good	25.8	26.3	24.8	26.5	26.5	26.7
Good	17.2	14.8	28.6	18.9	16.9	29.0
Fair or Poor	2.3	1.8	4.2	2.7	2.3	4.9

Parent Rating of Child's Health	Family Income, 1985 Under $10,000	$10,000-$19,999	$20,000-$34,999	$35,000 or more	Family Income, 1985 Under $10,000	$10,000-$19,999	$20,000-$34,999	$35,000 or more
Excellent	41.7%	50.3%	58.3%	65.5%	38.3%	44.6%	53.9%	64.5%
Very Good	27.3	29.4	25.1	24.3	24.6	28.9	28.2	24.6
Good	26.8	18.0	14.7	8.4	32.2	23.5	16.0	9.7
Fair or Poor	4.2	2.4	1.8	1.8	4.9	3.0	1.9	1.1

Parent Rating of Child's Health	Year 1983	1984	1985	Year 1983	1984	1985
Excellent	54.0%	53.6%	54.7%	52.2%	52.8%	52.0%
Very Good	25.1	25.1	25.8	24.8	24.5	26.5
Good	18.0	17.9	17.2	19.7	19.6	18.9
Fair or Poor	2.9	3.5	2.3	4.3	3.1	2.7

Note: The scale used in the National Health Interview Survey for overall rating of a subject's health was changed between 1981 and 1982 from a four-category to a five-category scale. In addition, parents were no longer asked to compare the child with others of the same age and sex. Thus, ratings data from years prior to 1983 are not strictly comparable to recent data.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, "Current Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey: United States, 1983;" "..., 1984;" and "... 1985;" Vital and Health Statistics, Series 10, Nos. 154, 156, and 160, Table 70 in each volume.

17. Chronic Health Conditions in Childhood. Among persistent health conditions that are common in childhood, respiratory conditions such as chronic sinusitis, chronic bronchitis, hay fever and asthma are the most prevalent. Each of these conditions affects 3 to 4 million youngsters. Skin conditions; orthopedic, hearing, or speech impairments; and heart murmurs also affect large numbers of children and adolescents. Asthma stands out among the most prevalent conditions because it is the leading cause of activity restriction in children, can be life threatening, and requires frequent medical care. Serious childhood diseases such as epilepsy and diabetes affect smaller but still substantial numbers of young people.

Prevalence of Selected Chronic Health Conditions That Are Common in Childhood

Type of Condition	Estimated Number of Cases in Population Under 18, 1985	Number Per 1,000 Children Under 18
Respiratory Conditions		
Chronic sinusitis	3.7 million	59.6
Chronic bronchitis	3.5 million	55.5
Hay fever or allergic rhinitis without asthma	3.2 million	50.3
Asthma	3.0 million	47.8
Chronic disease of tonsils or adenoids	1.7 million	26.5
Skin Conditions		
Dermatitis	2.8 million	44.5
Serious acne	1.7 million	27.2
Impairments		
Deformity or orthopedic impairment	2.1 million	33.2
Hearing impairment	1.2 million	19.2
Speech impairment	1.0 million	16.3
Visual impairment	680 thousand	10.8
Other Conditions		
Heart murmurs	1.1 million	16.9
Migraine headache	795 thousand	12.7
Anemias	540 thousand	8.6
Epilepsy	282 thousand	4.5
Diabetes	118 thousand	1.9

Note: Chronic conditions as defined in the National Health Interview Survey are conditions that either a) were first noticed 3 months or more before the reference date of the interview; or b) belong to a group of conditions (including heart disease, diabetes, and others) that are considered chronic regardless of when they began. The prevalence estimates are based on reports by parents or other adult respondents in response to checklists administered in household interviews. Estimates for conditions that affect fewer than 200,000 persons in the population may be somewhat unreliable due to small sample sizes.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, "Current Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey: United States, 1985, Vital and Health Statistics, Series 10, Number 160; Tables 57 and 62.

18. Children with Limitation of Activity Due to Chronic Health Conditions. Approximately 3.2 million children under 18, just over 5 percent of the child population, are reported by their parents to have some form of activity limitation caused by a chronic health condition. About 2.3 million, or 3.7 percent of the child population, are reported to have a limitation in a major activity, that is, a condition that limits school attendance (for school-aged children) or ordinary play (for preschool children). Health-related activity limitations are more frequent among males than females; among blacks than whites; and among young people from low-income families than among those from more affluent families.

Prevalence of Activity Limitations Due to Chronic Health Conditions Among Children Under 18

	Estimated Number in Population (in thousands)		Percent of All Children Under 18	
	1983	1985	1983	1985
Total with Activity Limitation*	3,185	3,221	5.1%	5.1%
Degree of Limitation				
Limited in a major activity*	2,196	2,312	3.5%	3.7%
Unable to carry on major activity	215	292	0.3%	0.5
Limited in amount or kind of major activity	1,981	2,020	3.2	3.2
Limited, but not in major activity	988	910	1.6	1.5

Children With Activity Limitations by Sex, Race, and Family Income, 1985

	Total With Some Activity Limitation (in thousands)	Limitation in Major Activity* (in thousands)	Total With Some Activity Limitation	Limitation in Major Activity*
All Children Under 18	3,221	2,311	5.1%	3.7%
Sex				
Male	1,934	1,422	6.0%	4.4%
Female	1,287	889	4.2	2.9
Race				
White	2,596	1,817	5.1%	3.5%
Black	559	443	5.8	4.6
Family Income				
Under $10,000	686	560	7.5%	6.2%
$10,000-$19,999	705	493	5.6	3.9
$20,000-$34,999	947	661	4.9	3.5
$35,000 or more	622	431	4.0	2.8

*In the National Health Interview Survey, "limitation of activity" refers to a long-term reduction in a person's capacity to perform the average kind or amount of activities associated with his or her age group. Attending school is considered the major activity for children 5-17 years of age, while ordinary play is the major activity for children under 5 years of age. Beginning with the 1982 survey, a question on attending special classes was added to the limitation sequence for school-aged children. Thus, comparisons with earlier data on the prevalence of limitations among children are not appropriate.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, "Current Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey: United States, 1983;" "..., 1985;" Vital and Health Statistics, Series 10, Numbers 154 and 160, Tables 67 and 68 in each report.

19. Physician Visits. Children have averaged about 4 physician visits per child per year since the mid-1970's. More than three-quarters of all children have at least one physician contact over the course of a year. The number of physician visits per child per year rose between 1964 and 1975. The proportion of children with at least one visit per year also rose during that period. In recent years, there has been little change in the number of visits per year or in the interval since the last visit.

Number of Physician Visits Per Child Per Year and Interval Since Last Physician Visit, U.S. Children*

	1964	1975	1979	1980	1981	1983*	1985*
Number of visits per child	3.7	4.2	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.2
Interval since last visit			Percent Distribution				
Less than one year	67.0%	73.6%	75.6%	76.7%	76.2%	77.5%	77.9%
One to less than two years	14.8	14.0	13.7	12.8	13.2	11.3	11.9
Two years or more	14.7	11.2	9.4	9.2	9.7	9.4	8.9

*Figures for 1964-1981 are for children under 17 years. Figures for 1983 and 1985 are for children under 18 years.

Note: Physician visits as measured in the National Health Interview Survey include contacts with physicians by telephone.

Source: Calculated from: National Center for Health Statistics, Health: United States, 1982, Tables 35, 36; "Current Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey: United States," Vital and Health Statistics, Series 10, Nos. 141, 154, and 160; Tables 71 and 72.

20. Physician Visits By Age, Race, and Income. As of 1985, nearly one child in 10 had not seen a doctor in two years or more. School-aged children have fewer physician visits per year, and are less likely to have seen a doctor within the last two years, than preschool children. Children from low-income families are less likely to receive medical care than children from more affluent families.

	Number of Physician Visits Per Child Per Year, 1985	Percent With No Physician Visit in Two Years or More, 1985
All children under 18	4.2	8.9%
Age		
Under 5 years	6.7	1.9%
5-17 years	3.3	11.9
Race		
White	4.5	8.6%
Black	3.0	11.0
Family Income		
Under $10,000	3.8	12.4%
$10,000-$19,999	3.9	11.3
$20,000-$34,999	4.4	8.6
$35,000 or more	5.0	5.5

Note: Physician visits as measured in the National Health Interview Survey include contacts with physicians by telephone.

Source: Calculated from: National Center for Health Statistics. "Current Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, United States, 1985," Vital and Health Statistics, Series 10, No. 160, Tables 71 and 72.

21. Dental Visits. School-aged children average between 2 and 3 dental visits per child per year. One school-aged child in three has not seen a dentist in a year or more. One in five has not seen a dentist in two years or more. Children are less apt to receive regular dental care if they come from black or low-income families.

Interval Since Last Dental Visit, School-Aged Children[a] (Percent Distribution)

Interval	1978-79	1981	1983[a]
Less than one year	64.5%	64.7%	67.0%
One year to less than two years	14.1	14.5	11.7
Two years or more	20.0	19.7	19.9

Number of Dental Visits Per Child Per Year and Interval Since Last Visit By Race and Family Income, 1983

	Number of Dental Visits Per Child Per Year, 1985	Interval Since Last Dental Visit: Less Than One Year	One Year to Less Than Two Years	Two Years or More
All children aged 5-17	2.5	67.0%	11.7%	19.9%
Race				
White	2.7	69.9%	11.1%	17.8%
Black	1.2	51.2	15.2	31.2
Family Income				
Under $10,000	1.3	53.1%	13.4%	32.4%
$10,000-$19,999	1.9	56.8	15.0	27.2
$20,000-$34,999	2.9	72.8	10.9	15.7
$35,000 or more	3.7	84.5	7.4	7.6

[a]Data for 1978-79 and 1981 are for children 6-16 years of age. Data for 1983 are for those 5-17 years old.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, "Dental Visits -- Volume and Interval Since Last Visit: United States, 1978 and 1979," by C. S. Wilder, Vital and Health Statistics, Series 10, No. 138, and unpublished data from the Division of Health Interview Statistics.

2. Alcohol, Cigarette, and Marijuana Use Among Teenagers. About a third of all teenagers aged 12-17 report having used alcohol at least once in the past month. Sixteen percent report cigarette use and 12 percent report marijuana use during the same period. Use of all three substances increases sharply from age 12 to age 17. While the level of alcohol use by teens has fluctuated since 1974, cigarette use has gradually declined, although there is some indication that the decline in teen smoking may be leveling off. Marijuana use has declined from peak levels reached in the late 1970s, but has not returned to levels recorded in the early 1970s.

Percent Reporting Use of Substance in Past Month

	1972	1974	1976	1977	1979	1982	1985
Alcohol*							
All teens 12-17 years	na	34%	32%	31%	37%	27%	32%
Age:							
12-13 year olds	na	19%	19%	13%	20%	10%	na
14-15 year olds	na	32	31	28	36	23	na
16-17 year olds	na	51	47	52	55	45	na
Sex:							
Males	na	39%	36%	37%	39%	27%	na
Females	na	29	29	25	36	27	na
Cigarettes							
All teens 12-17 years	na	25%	23%	22%	na	15%	16%
Age:							
12-13 year olds	na	13%	11%	10%	na	3%	na
14-15 year olds	na	25	20	22	na	10	na
16-17 year olds	na	38	39	35	na	30	na
Sex:							
Males	na	27%	21%	23%	na	16%	na
Females	na	24	26	22	na	13	na
Marijuana							
All teens 12-17 years	7%	12%	12%	17%	17%	12%	12%
Age:							
12-13 year olds	1%	2%	3%	4%	4%	2%	na
14-15 year olds	6	12	13	16	17	8	na
16-17 year olds	16	20	21	30	28	23	na
Sex:							
Males	9%	12%	14%	20%	19%	13%	na
Females	6	11	11	13	14	10	na

*In 1979, 1982, and 1985 private answer sheets were used for alcohol questions; in earlier years, respondents answered questions aloud.
no - Data not comparable because definitions differ.
na - Data not yet available.

Note: Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the population 12 years of age and over in the coterminous United States.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Health United States, 1985, Table 35; National Institute on Drug Abuse, Overview of the 1985 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

23. Alcohol and Drug Use Among High School Seniors. Two thirds of all high school seniors report drinking alcohol and a quarter report using marijuana in the past month. One in fifteen reports using cocaine. The use of nearly all drugs has declined in the last few years from peak levels reached in the late 1970s or early 1980s. The use of cocaine has continued to rise, however.

Percent of High School Seniors Reporting Use of Substance in Previous 30 Days

Substance	1975	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985
Alcohol	68.2%	71.2%	71.8%	70.7%	67.7%	65.9%
Marijuana	27.1	35.4	36.5	31.6	27.1	25.7
Stimulants	8.5	8.8	9.9	15.8	7.8	6.8
Cocaine	1.9	2.9	5.7	5.8	4.5	6.7
LSD	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.2	1.3
PCP	na	na	2.4	1.4	1.3	1.6
Heroin	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, "Highlights from Student Drug Use in America, 1975-1981," by L. Johnston, J. Bachman and P. O'Malley, Table 8; and Johnston, L., J. Bachman, and P. O'Malley, Monitoring The Future, University of Michigan: Institute for Social Research, annual volumes, 1975-1985.

24. Young People's Use of Psychological Services. In 1981, there were almost 3.5 million young people aged 3-17 -- nearly 7 percent of the population of those ages -- who had ever received psychological counseling or therapy for an emotional, mental or behavior problem. The proportion of young people who had received psychological help increased with age, growing from 2 percent in the preschool years to about 9 percent in adolescence. Nearly two-thirds of the young people who had received counseling or therapy were males, and a majority came from disrupted families. The proportion of adolescents who had seen a psychological counselor or therapist within the last year nearly doubled between the late 1960's and 1981, with virtually all of the growth occurring among teens from single-parent families or stepfamilies.

Number and Characteristics of Children Aged 3-17 Who Have Ever Seen A Psychologist or Psychiatrist For An Emotional, Mental or Behavior Problem, 1981

Child and Family Characteristics	Number of Children in Population (in 000's)	Children Who Have Received Psychological Help: Number (in 000's)	Children Who Have Received Psychological Help: Percent of All Children in Group	Percent of Children Who Have Received Help
All children aged 3-17	52,653	3,475	7%	100%
Age of Child				
3-5*	10,378	208	2%	6%
6-8	8,883	452	5	13
9-11	10,804	834	8	24
12-14	11,141	973	9	28
15-17	11,447	1,008	9	29
Sex of Child				
Male	26,985	2,189	8%	63%
Female	25,668	1,286	5	37
Race/Ethnicity				
White	39,095	2,710	7%	78%
Black	7,608	452	6	13
Hispanic	4,570	278	6	8
Child Lives With:				
Both biological parents	34,535	1,355	4%	39%
Mother only	9,709	1,042	11	30
Mother and Stepfather	4,270	499	12	14
Father and Stepmother	974	142	15	4
Father only	885	101	11	3
Neither biological parent	2,275	356	16	10

*Includes 6 year-olds who had not yet started regular school.

(continued)

24. Young People's Use of Psychological Services (continued).

Percentage of Adolescents Aged 12-17 Who Had Ever Seen a Psychologist or Psychiatrist for An Emotional, Mental, or Behavior Problem, 1966-70 Versus 1981, By Type of Family (Selected Family Types)

Type of Family and When, If Ever, Adolescent Received Psychological Help	Year 1966-70	Year 1981	Percent Change
All adolescents, ages 12-17			
Ever received psychological help	6.1%	8.8%	+44%
-Within last year	2.0	3.8	+90
-More than a year ago	4.1	5.0	
Never received psychological help	93.9	91.2	
	100.0%	100.0%	
Adolescents in Mother-Father families			
Ever received psychological help	5.7%	5.0%	-12%
-Within last year	1.7	1.9	+12
-More than a year ago	4.0	3.1	
Never received psychological help	94.3	95.0	
	100.0%	100.0%	
Adolescents in Mother-Only families			
Ever received psychological help	9.1%	14.6%	+60%
-Within last year	3.7	6.9	+86
-More than a year ago	5.4	7.7	
Never received psychological help	90.9	85.4	
	100.0%	100.0%	
Adolescents in Mother-Stepfather families			
Ever received psychological help	7.1%	14.3%	+101%
-Within last year	2.3	5.7	+148
-More than a year ago	4.8	8.6	
Never received psychological help	92.9	85.7	
	100.0%	100.0%	

Source: Analysis by Child Trends, Inc. of public use data from the Child Health Supplement to the 1981 National Health Interview Survey and Cycle III of the Health Examination Survey, 1966-70. Data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics, Divisions of Health Interview Statistics and Health Examination Statistics.

25. Health Insurance Coverage. Eight out of ten children under 18 were covered by some form of health insurance in 1984. Whereas more than 85 percent of children in two-parent families had health insurance coverage, only about two-thirds of those in single-parent families had coverage. Children living with divorced mothers were less likely to have coverage than children living with never-married mothers; the children of never-married mothers were twice as likely to be covered by Medicaid as the children of divorced mothers. Thirteen percent of all children, and nearly half of those in families below the poverty line, were covered by the Medicaid program, but 32% of all children living in families below the poverty level had no insurance of any kind.

Percent of Children in 1984 Covered by:

	Some Form of Health Insurance	Medicaid*
Total (all children 0-17)	80%	13%
Child Lives With:		
Both parents	87%	5%
Mother only	69	41
Divorced mother	66	29
Never married mother	76	61
Separated mother	70	48
Widowed mother	60	21
Father only	64	9
Poverty Status of Family:		
Below poverty level	68%	49%
Poverty to 1.99 poverty level	72	9
2 x poverty level and above	88	1
Race/Ethnicity:		
White, non-Hispanic	83%	8%
Black, non-Hispanic	75	33
Other, non-Hispanic	78	15
Hispanic	69	22

*Medicaid health insurance is for the most part a categorical program with complex eligibility rules which vary by state. In about one-half of the states, coverage is extended to the medically needy -- persons who meet categorical age, sex, or disability criteria, and whose money incomes and assets exceed eligibility levels for cash assistance but are insufficient to meet medical care costs. Medically needy eligibility standards in such states may also include families with large medical expenses relative to their income and assets. In addition, Medicaid "coverage" includes all persons enrolled in the Medicaid program (i.e., had a Medicaid medical assistance card or incurred medical bills which were paid for by Medicaid) at any time during 1984. In order to be included as "covered," the person did not have to receive medical care paid for by Medicaid.

Source: Analysis by Child Trends, Inc. of public use data from the Census Bureau's March 1985 Current Population Survey. Tabulations of public use data prepared by Technical Support Staff, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

1. Goals of College Freshmen. When college freshmen are asked to rate the importance to them personally of various life objectives, just over 70 percent rate it "essential" or "very important" that they become "an authority in my field" and be "very well off financially." The proportion who deem it important to be financially successful has risen dramatically since the late 1960s. This is now the most popular goal among male freshmen and is endorsed by two-thirds of female freshmen as well. By contrast, the goal of "developing a meaningful philosophy of life" has dropped in popularity, decreasing 83 percent to 43 percent endorsement between 1968 and 1985. Freshmen of both sexes endorse career-oriented goals more strongly today than they did in the recent past, but changes along these lines have been more striking among females. On the other hand, sizable majorities of both sexes continue to consider it "very important" or "essential" to raise a family and help others who are in difficulty.

Percent of College Freshmen Who Rate Selected Life Objectives As "Essential" or "Very Important"

Objectives		1968	1970	1975	1980	1985
Becoming an authority in my field	Total	58%	67%	70%	73%	71%
	Males	61	72	73	75	73
	Females	55	61	66	72	69
Being very well off financially	Total	41%	39%	50%	63%	71%
	Males	51	48	58	69	75
	Females	27	28	40	58	67
Raising a family	Total	na	68%	57%	63%	70%
	Males	na	64	56	63	69
	Females	na	72	57	64	70
Helping others in difficulty	Total	59%	65%	66%	65%	63%
	Males	50	57	58	56	55
	Females	71	74	74	73	71

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1. Goals of College Freshmen (continued).

Percent of College Freshmen Who Rate Selected Life Objectives As "Essential" or "Very Important" (continued)

Objectives		1968	1970	1975	1980	1985
Obtaining recognition from colleagues/peers	Total	37%	40%	43%	54%	55%
	Males	41	45	47	56	57
	Females	32	33	39	53	54
Being successful in a business of my own	Total	45%	44%	44%	49%	52%
	Males	55	54	53	55	56
	Females	32	32	33	44	48
Developing a meaningful philosophy of life	Total	83%	76%	64%	50%	43%
	Males	79	73	61	49	44
	Females	87	79	68	52	43
Having administrative responsibility	Total	23%	22%	31%	39%	43%
	Males	28	27	34	41	45
	Females	16	15	27	37	41

Source: Trend analysis by Child Trends, Inc., of data from the annual survey of entering college freshmen conducted jointly by the University of California at Los Angeles and the American Council on Education. See: Astin, A. W., Green, K. C., Korn, W. S., and Schalit, M. The American Freshman - National Norms for Fall 1985; Los Angeles: Higher Education Research Institute, Graduate School of Education, UCLA; and earlier volumes in series.

2. Post High School Plans of High School Seniors. Nearly two out of three high school seniors plan to earn a college degree, and more than one in three plans to attend graduate or professional school. The plans of males and females in 1985 are quite similar except that far fewer females plan to serve in the Armed Forces. Plans to attend a vocational or technical school, serve in the Armed Forces, or to graduate from a 2-year college program have not shown much change since 1975, while plans for graduation from 4 years of college and attendance at a graduate or professional school show marked increases, particularly among female seniors.

Post High School Plans of
High School Seniors, 1976-1985

Future Activities or Accomplishments	Percent of High School Seniors Who Say They "Probably" or "Definitely Will" Do Each Thing				
	1976	1978	1980	1983	1985
Attend a technical or vocational school					
Total	26.8%	28.2%	26.9%	28.7%	26.2%
Males	28.7	30.9	29.1	30.9	29.1
Females	24.6	25.4	24.5	26.3	23.1
Graduate from a 2-year college program					
Total	31.6%	31.0%	32.3%	36.7%	33.7%
Males	29.6	27.7	28.8	32.9	30.5
Females	33.2	33.9	35.2	40.3	36.3
Graduate from college (4-year program)					
Total	50.5%	51.3%	56.9%	58.0%	62.1%
Males	52.5	53.1	59.1	58.4	61.4
Females	48.4	49.9	54.9	58.0	63.2
Attend graduate or professional school					
Total	28.6%	30.0%	34.1%	34.1%	38.0%
Males	30.0	31.3	36.3	33.3	35.8
Females	27.2	29.1	32.1	35.2	40.4
Serve in Armed Forces					
Total	14.5%	12.0%	13.1%	17.7%	16.1%
Males	22.0	18.7	21.0	27.2	25.3
Females	7.0	5.5	5.4	8.3	7.4

Source: Trend analysis by Child Trends, Inc., of data from "Monitoring the Future," an annual survey of high school seniors conducted by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan and sponsored by the National Institute of Drug Abuse and other agencies. See: Johnston, L.D., Bachman, J.G., and O'Malley, P., Monitoring the Future, annual 1975-85, Ann Arbor, Michigan: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan.

3. Daily Activity Patterns of High School Seniors. Nearly three-quarters of high school seniors report that they watch television "almost every day." Just over half say they read books, magazines, or newspapers on a daily basis. Whereas the proportion who report daily TV watching has remained fairly constant since 1977, the proportion who read every day has dropped by 11 percentage points. The proportion who report doing creative writing on a daily basis remained fairly constant between 1977 and 1985, but at a much lower level: about 6 percent of all seniors.

Daily activity patterns still show substantial sex differences, with more females reporting daily housework, reading, writing, music-making, and time spent alone. On the other hand, more males report daily exercise or sports participation, getting together with friends informally, and riding around in a car just for fun.

Percent of High School Seniors Who Report They Do Selected Activities "Almost Every Day"

Activity		1977	1979	1981	1983	1984	1985
Watch TV							
	Total	73%	71%	72%	75%	73%	72%
	Males	74	72	75	77	76	74
	Females	72	69	69	73	69	69
Read books, magazines or newspapers							
	Total	62%	60%	59%	55%	53%	51%
	Males	60	59	58	55	52	50
	Females	66	62	60	55	54	52
Get together with friends, informally							
	Total	51%	52%	49%	47%	48%	47%
	Males	56	57	54	50	51	52
	Females	47	45	44	44	43	43
Actively participate in sports, exercise							
	Total	45%	47%	48%	46%	44%	43%
	Males	54	56	56	56	54	53
	Females	37	39	39	36	33	34
Spend at least an hour of leisure time alone							
	Total	43%	42%	44%	44%	44%	42%
	Males	42	40	42	44	42	40
	Females	44	42	45	44	45	45
Work around the house, yard, garden, car, etc.							
	Total	43%	40%	40%	42%	41%	35%
	Males	34	33	32	34	35	28
	Females	51	48	48	50	47	42

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3. Daily Activity Patterns of High School Seniors. (continued).

Percent of High School Seniors Who Report They Do Selected Activities "Almost Every Day" (continued)

Activity	1977	1979	1981	1983	1984	1985
Ride around in a car (or motorcycle) just for fun						
Total	38%	37%	32%	34%	34%	35%
Males	43	44	36	38	40	39
Females	32	30	27	30	27	31
Play a musical instrument or sing						
Total	31%	32%	31%	28%	30%	29%
Males	25	24	27	24	24	24
Females	37	40	34	33	37	35
Do art or craft work						
Total	15%	13%	14%	12%	12%	11%
Males	14	12	13	13	14	12
Females	17	15	15	10	10	10
Do creative writing						
Total	5%	6%	6%	5%	6%	6%
Males	3	5	4	3	6	4
Females	6	6	7	6	6	7

Source: Trend analysis by Child Trends, Inc., of data from "Monitoring the Future," an annual survey of high school seniors conducted by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan and sponsored by the National Institute of Drug Abuse and other agencies. See: Johnston, L.D., Bachman, J.G., and O'Malley, P., Monitoring the Future, annual 1975-85, Ann Arbor, Michigan: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan.

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4. Premarital Sexual Activity. Between 1971 and 1982, the proportion of never-married young women 15-19 who reported ever having had sex increased by more than 50 percent, primarily because of a trend toward earlier intercourse among unmarried white females. Although the degree of increase has slowed and a decline may have occurred among blacks (the apparent declines are not statistically reliable), a substantial overall increase seems to have occurred compared to 1971. Between 1979 and 1982, significant declines in the percentage of never-married females who ever had sex occurred in all age and race categories. In 1982, of the young women ever having had sex, four in 10 reported having sex only once a month or less often. Among never-married males aged 17 to 21, more than two-thirds reported that they had had sexual intercourse.

Percentage of Never-Married Female and Male Teenagers Living in Metropolitan Areas Who Have Ever Experienced Sexual Intercourse, by Age: 1971-1982

Race and Age	1971	1976	1979	1982	Percent Change 1971 to 1982
			FEMALES		
All Races*					
15-19	28%	39%	46%	42%	+53%
15	14	19	23	18	+28
16	21	29	38	28	+36
17	26	43	49	41	+57
18	40	51	57	53	+33
19	46	60	69	62	+35
White					
15-19	23%	34%	42%	40%	+74%
15	11	14	18	17	+53
16	17	26	35	27	+58
17	20	36	44	40	+96
18	36	46	53	49	+37
19	41	54	65	59	+46
Black					
15-19	52%	64%	65%	53%	+ 1%
15	31	39	41	23	-26
16	44	55	50	36	-18
17	59	71	73	47	-21
18	60	76	76	76	+26
19	78	84	89	78	-<1
			MALES		
All Races					
17-21	na	na	69%	na	na
17	na	na	56	na	na
18	na	na	66	na	na
19	na	na	78	na	na
20	na	na	81	na	na
21	na	na	71	na	na

Note: The category "All Races" includes races other than black and white. Percents shown are the proportions reporting in a survey they have had sexual intercourse one or more times. Males were studied only in 1979. The age group 17-21 was selected for males in the expectation that their partners are often younger female teens.

Source: Zelnik, M. and J. Kantner, "Sexual Activity, Contraceptive Use and Pregnancy Among Metropolitan-Area Teenagers: 1971-1979, Family Planning Perspectives, 12(5), September/October, 1980; and National Center for Health Statistics, National Survey of Family Growth, 1982, Cycle III, unpublished tabulations, 1984.

5. Trends in Pregnancy Rates. The proportion of U.S. teens becoming pregnant has risen over the past decade and a half, largely because the proportion of sexually experienced teens has been increasing. Considering only females who are sexually experienced, the proportion who have become pregnant seems to have declined somewhat. The proportion having a birth has declined substantially each year, reflecting lower pregnancy rates and increased abortion rates.

Among all females 15-19, the percent each year:

	1970	1975	1980	1984
Becoming pregnant:	9%	10%	11%	11%
Having a legal abortion:	1%	3%	4%	4%
Having a birth:	7%	6%	5%	5%

Among females 15-19 who have ever had sex, the percent each year:

	1970	1975	1980	1984
Becoming pregnant:	26%	25%	25%	23%
Having a legal abortion:	2%	8%	9%	9%
Having a birth:	20%	14%	12%	11%

Source: Calculations by Sandra Hofferth, Center for Population Research, National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health.

6. Age at First Marriage. In the last decade and a half, there has been a marked trend toward marriage at later ages among both young women and young men.

	Percentage of Women Who Are Single				Percentage of Men Who Are Single			
Age	1970	1980	1984	1986	1970	1980	1984	1986
18	82%	88%	91%	92%	95%	97%	98%	98%
19	69	78	83	85	90	91	95	95
20	57	67	74	79	78	86	90	92
21	44	60	68	68	66	77	83	83
25	14	28	34	34	27	43	52	54
29	8	15	20	24	14	24	26	31

Note: As used here, single means never-married.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 399, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1984" Table B, and earlier reports; and unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

7. Unwanted Births. Although the proportion of births unwanted at conception declined between 1976 and 1982, black mothers remained more likely than white mothers to report that their births were the result of unwanted pregnancies. The proportion of births resulting from unwanted pregnancies is essentially unchanged among mothers with fewer than twelve years of high school and is considerably higher for these mothers than for those with more education.

Percentage of Births Unwanted at Conception, 1976 and 1982

Race of Mother	1976	1982	Education of Mother	1976	1982
Total	12.0%	10.5%	Less than 12 years	16.1%	16.5%
White	9.5	8.0	Twelve Years	11.2	9.7
Black	25.8	23.7	More than 12 Years	7.4	6.8

Note: In the National Survey of Family Growth a pregnancy is defined as unwanted if the woman reports she did not want or probably did not want to have a(nother) baby at some time and felt that way before becoming pregnant.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Advance Data, No. 56, January 24, 1980, "Wanted and Unwanted Births Reported by Mothers 15-44 Years of Age: United States, 1976," by E. Eckard and "Fertility Patterns: The Number, Timing and Wantedness of Births, United States, 1982," Vital and Health Statistics Report, Series 23, Data from the National Survey of Family Growth.

8. Pregnancy Spacing. The average number of months between births increased between 1970 and 1977, particularly among older black mothers. Between 1977 and 1984, however, births became somewhat more closely spaced in all race and age categories. Young mothers continue to have more closely spaced births than older mothers.

Average Months Between Current Live and Previous Live Birth

Age at Current Birth	Whites			Blacks		
	1970	1977	1984	1970	1977	1984
Less than 20	21 months	23 months	22 months	21 months	24 months	23 months
20-24	30	33	31	29	36	33
25-29	40	44	40	42	52	49
30-34	54	56	49	53	66	65

Note: Data were reported by 37 states in 1970, by 43 states and the District of Columbia in 1977, and by 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1984. Spacing refers to the interval between the present live birth and the previous live birth.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, "Interval Between Births: United States, 1970-77," by E. Spratley and S. Taffel, Vital and Health Statistics, Series 21, No. 39, Table Q, and unpublished tabulations from the Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

9. Abortion. The abortion rate (abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44), and the abortion ratio (abortions per 1,000 live births plus abortions) increased until 1980 and then stabilized. A slight decline in 1984 is due to smaller numbers of younger women. After increasing rapidly during the 1970s, the number of abortions has also stabilized.

Abortion: Numbers (in thousands), Rates, and Ratios

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Number of Abortions Per Year (in thousands)	745	899	1,034	1,179	1,317	1,410	1,498	1,554	1,577	1,574	1,575	1,577
Abortion Rates	16	19	22	24	26	28	29	29	29	29	29	28
Abortion Ratios	193	220	249	265	286	294	297	300	301	300	304	297

Source: Henshaw, Stanley, Jacqueline Forrest and Ellen Blaine, "Abortion Services in the United States, 1981 and 1982," Family Planning Perspectives, 16(3) (May/June 1984), Table 1, p. 120; Henshaw, Stanley, "Characteristics of U.S. Women Having Abortions, 1982-1983," Family Planning Perspectives, 19(1) (January/February 1987), Table 1; and forthcoming data provided by the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

10. Family Roles. A majority of male high school seniors believe a preschool child suffers if the mother is employed. However, the proportions of both male and female seniors holding this view have declined since the mid-1970's. While both sexes support equal pay for equal work, girls feel more strongly about this than do boys. Male seniors are more likely than female seniors to view the woman's role as centered around the home.

Percentage of High School Seniors Agreeing With Selected Statements, 1975-1985

		1975	1977	1980	1983	1985
"A preschool child is likely to suffer if the mother works"	Male	74%	71%	63%	61%	61%
	Female	59	53	45	40	38
"Men and women should be paid the same money if they do the same work"	Male	86%	92%	90%	90%	89%
	Female	97	98	99	98	98
"It is usually better for everyone involved if the man is the achiever outside the home and the woman takes care of the home and family"	Male	55%	64%	59%	50%	48%
	Female	36	43	36	27	26

Source: Trend analysis by Child Trends, Inc., of data from "Monitoring the Future," an annual survey of high school seniors conducted by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan and sponsored by the National Institute of Drug Abuse and other agencies. See: Johnston, L.D., Bachman, J.G., and O'Malley, P., Monitoring the Future, annual 1975-85, Ann Arbor, Michigan: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan.

11. National Problems That Worry Youth. When asked how often they worry about each of the national problems listed below, U.S. high school seniors are most apt to report worry about crime and violence and drug abuse. Concern about crime has been on the decline, however. Concern about nuclear war has increased since the mid-1970s, but appears to have reached a plateau. There has been a resurgence of concern about hunger and poverty in recent years, whereas worry about pollution, population growth, energy shortages, and loss of open land have been declining.

Percentage of High School Seniors Who Often Worry About Selected Issues, 1975-1985

	1975	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985
Crime and violence	54%	53%	45%	53%	45%	40%
Drug abuse	31	31	31	33	32	33
Hunger and poverty	27	20	16	21	21	28
Chance of nuclear war	8	15	20	24	26	25
Economic problems	32	21	24	32	31	19
Race relations	19	21	17	19	17	16
Pollution	37	35	27	23	16	13
Loss of open land	19	17	15	13	12	11
Energy shortages	36	40	46	36	13	7
Population growth	20	16	12	10	7	6

Source: Trend analysis by Child Trends, Inc., of data from "Monitoring the Future," an annual survey of high school seniors conducted by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan and sponsored by the National Institute of Drug Abuse and other agencies. See: Johnston, L.D., Bachman, J.G., and O'Malley, P., Monitoring the Future, annual 1975-85, Ann Arbor, Michigan: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan.

12. Attitudes Toward Military Service in the Event of War. A majority of male high school seniors say that, if they felt it were necessary for the U.S. to fight in some future war, they would volunteer for military service. However, nearly a third say they would not volunteer, and 15 percent of male students say that, in their opinion, there is no such thing as a "necessary" war. The proportion of males willing to volunteer is up sharply in recent years. Female students are much less likely to say they would volunteer, yet the proportion who would volunteer rose until 1984, while the proportion saying there is no such thing as a necessary war has remained stable.

Attitudes of High School Seniors Toward Military Service In the Event of a Necessary War

	1976	1978	1980	1982	1984	1985
Males						
Would volunteer	43%	42%	47%	52%	55%	56%
Would not volunteer	39	40	37	30	29	29
No such thing as necessary war	18	18	16	18	16	15
Females						
Would volunteer	18%	18%	22%	24%	24%	22%
Would not volunteer	52	53	55	47	49	50
No such thing as necessary war	30	29	22	29	27	28

Source: Trend analysis by Child Trends, Inc., of data from "Monitoring the Future," an annual survey of high school seniors conducted by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan and sponsored by the National Institute of Drug Abuse and other agencies. See: Johnston, L.D., Bachman, J.G., and O'Malley, P., Monitoring the Future, annual 1975-85, Ann Arbor, Michigan: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan.

13. Religious Involvement of High School Seniors. The proportion of high school seniors who attend religious services once a week or more declined from 43 percent in 1980 to 35 percent in 1985. Nearly half of the 1985 seniors said they rarely or never attended church. The proportion who describe religion as being very important in their lives has also declined since 1980, but not as sharply. Few changes in denominational preference have occurred since 1976. Baptists and Roman Catholics remain the largest denominations.

Church Attendance, Importance of Religion, and Religious Preference Among High School Seniors

	1976	1978	1980	1983	1985
Frequency of Church Attendance					
Weekly	40.7%	39.4%	43.1%	39.1%	35.3%
1-2 Times a month	16.3	17.2	16.3	17.0	16.6
Rarely	32.0	34.4	32.0	34.6	37.0
Never	11.0	9.0	8.6	9.3	11.1
Importance of Religion in Own Life					
Very important	28.8%	27.8%	32.4%	28.3%	27.3%
Pretty important	30.5	33.0	32.6	34.2	32.4
A little	27.8	27.9	25.3	26.9	27.6
Not important	12.9	11.2	9.8	10.6	12.7
What is your religious preference?					
Baptist	21.9%	22.2%	19.7%	21.8%	21.8%
Churches of Christ	4.6	5.4	5.1	5.6	6.0
Disciples of Christ	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5
Episcopal	1.8	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.7
Lutheran	7.0	7.2	6.2	6.2	5.1
Methodist	8.6	9.0	7.6	7.4	7.9
Presbyterian	3.5	3.8	4.4	3.8	3.4
United Church of Christ	1.5	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.8
Other Protestant	5.0	3.7	5.0	3.9	4.4
Unitarian	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Roman Catholic	25.6	28.1	32.3	30.2	28.5
Eastern Orthodox	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Jewish	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.2	1.2
Latter Day Saints	na	na	na	1.8	1.7
Other religion	6.5	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.2
None	11.4	9.7	8.9	9.3	11.5

Source: Trend analysis by Child Trends, Inc., of data from "Monitoring the Future," an annual survey of high school seniors conducted by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan and sponsored by the National Institute of Drug Abuse and other agencies. See: Johnston, L.D., Bachman, J.G., and O'Malley, P., Monitoring the Future, annual 1975-85, Ann Arbor, Michigan: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan.

14. Juvenile Arrest Rates. In 1985, there were approximately 102 arrests of teenagers aged 13-17 for every 1,000 teens in that age range. The juvenile arrest rate for FBI property index crimes, such as arson, auto theft, and burglary, was about 32 per thousand; and the rate for FBI violent index crimes, such as aggravated assault, robbery, and rape, about 4 per thousand. Between 1965 and 1975, the total teen arrest rate increased by 41 percent, while the arrest rate for violent crimes more than doubled. Since 1975, teen arrest rates have remained stable or declined slightly.

	Number of Arrests of Teens Aged 13-17 Per 1,000 Teens in the Population					
	1965	1970	1975	1980	1984	1985
Total Arrests	73.5	97.4	103.9	101.0	97.8	101.8
Total Index Crime Arrests*	26.9	33.2	40.0	38.2	34.7	36.4
Property Index Crime Arrests*	24.8	29.9	35.5	33.7	30.4	32.1
Violent Index Crime Arrests*	2.1	3.3	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.3

*Crimes covered in the FBI Property Crime Index include arson, auto theft, burglary, and larceny. Crimes covered in the FBI Violent Crime Index include aggravated assault, murder, rape, robbery, and non-negligent manslaughter. The total Crime Index covers both types of crimes.

Note: Arrest trends are an imperfect indicator of underlying trends in juvenile crime rates. The likelihood that a crime will result in a recorded arrest depends on a number of factors, such as the propensity of victims to report crimes to the police, the police department's routine procedures for dealing with juvenile suspects, etc. Changes in these factors over time could distort the relationship between the number of arrests and the number of crimes committed. However, estimates of the volume of juvenile crime developed from National Crime Survey victimization report data are compatible with the arrest trends presented above.

Source: Cook, P., and J. Laub, "The (Surprising) Stability of Youth Crime Rates," Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 265-277, 1986; and unpublished data supplied by the same authors. Arrest statistics compiled by the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and adjusted for population coverage of reporting units.

15. Juveniles In Custody. The juvenile population in custody in public correctional facilities in 1985 was 49,322, representing a 3 percent increase from 1979. These juveniles were predominantly male and four-fifths were 14 to 17 years old. Black youth were overrepresented, making up 37 percent of the juveniles in custody. Nearly three-fourths of those held in public facilities were committed (adjudicated for an offense or for treatment), as opposed to being detained or voluntarily committed.

Number, Rate and Characteristics of Juveniles* Held in Public Juvenile Correctional Facilities

	1979		1983		1985	
	Number	Rate**	Number	Rate**	Number	Rate**
Total	47,803	167	48,701	176	49,322	185
				Percent Distribution		Percent Distribution
Sex						
Male			42,182	87%	42,549	86%
Female			6,519	13	6,773	14
Race***						
White			27,805	57%	29,969	61%
Black			18,020	37	18,269	37
Other			1,104	2	1,084	2
Ethnicity***						
Hispanic			5,727	12%	6,551	13%
Non-Hispanic			41,202	85	42,771	87
Age on census date						
9 years and under			42	-	60	-
10-13 years			3,104	6%	3,181	6%
14-17 years			39,571	81	40,640	82
18-20 years			4,804	10	5,409	11
21 years and over			86	-	32	-
Not reported			1,094	2	0	-
Adjudication status						
Detained			13,156	27%	14,474	29%
Committed			35,178	72	34,549	70
Voluntarily admitted			367	1	299	1

* Juveniles in the population are persons 10 years old through the statute-defined maximum age subject to juvenile court authority in each state.

** Rate is per 100,000 juveniles in the population.

***The numbers for 1983 exclude 1,772 cases for which race and ethnicity were not reported.

Note: Data are for February 1 of each year; "-" = zero or rounds to zero.

Source: Children in Custody, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, October, 1986.

16. Labor Force Participation and Unemployment Among Teenagers. About 38 percent of 16-17 year olds enrolled in school were in the labor force in 1985, and 20 percent of these were unemployed. The rate of labor force participation is about twice as high among teens not enrolled in school as among those who are enrolled. White youth are nearly twice as likely to be in the labor force as are black youth. The rates for those of Spanish origin are intermediate. Labor force participation rates have fluctuated within a fairly narrow range from 1960 to 1985 -- from 34 percent to 44 percent for those who are enrolled, and from 71 percent to 82 percent for those not enrolled. Only among white females enrolled in school have the rates risen substantially. In contrast, rates of unemployment, have about doubled for nearly every population subgroup. The rates rose from about 10 percent to approximately 20 percent for those enrolled in school, and from about 18 percent to nearly 40 percent for those not enrolled.

Labor Force Participation Rates and Unemployment Rates Among 16-17 Year Olds, October 1960 to October 1985, by School Enrollment Status, Sex, and Race or Origin

	Labor Force Participation Rate (a)						Unemployment Rate (b)					
	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985
ENROLLED												
All Ethnic Groups												
Males	34.0	37.2	38.9	41.7	44.1	38.0	11.0	12.2	16.5	17.4	19.8	20.8
Females	22.6	26.0	33.5	38.9	40.9	38.8	9.5	8.6	15.9	19.2	16.9	19.0
White												
Males	na	38.0	41.1	46.0	47.5	41.7	na	11.4	15.1	16.9	17.4	18.7
Females	na	27.2	35.5	43.6	48.1	42.2	na	7.2	14.8	17.9	15.3	15.7
Black												
Males	na	31.1	23.9	16.9	25.8	22.7	na	19.1	33.3	25.1	42.9	41.3
Females	na	17.4	20.4	20.8	17.5	23.9	na	--	28.4	32.4	39.4	50.9
Spanish Origin												
Males	na	na	na	30.3	31.2	na	na	na	na	--	--	na
Females	na	na	na	20.4	28.2	na	na	na	na	--	--	na
NOT ENROLLED												
All Ethnic Groups												
Males	81.8	81.4	75.7	75.6	71.4	74.9	18.3	16.4	28.5	35.7	26.9	42.2
Females	50.8	42.9	41.1	47.4	50.6	49.3	19.0	23.7	29.0	37.6	29.0	31.1
White												
Males	na	81.2	79.9	77.2	74.9	78.5	na	15.7	27.5	29.7	26.2	39.9
Females	na	44.3	43.5	47.6	56.0	51.3	na	21.5	26.1	31.1	25.5	27.4

Note: (a) The labor force participation rate is the ratio of the number in the labor force to the civilian non-institutional population in each population group.
(b) The unemployment rate is the proportion of the labor force that is without a job.
(na) Data not available.
(--) Population base too small for reliable estimate. The population base is too small to produce reliable estimates from the sample for black and Spanish origin groups that are not enrolled in school.

Source: Handbook of Labor Statistics, Bulletin 2217, Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 1985; and unpublished data for 1985 from the U.S. Department of Labor.

SELECTED GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AFFECTING CHILDREN

1. Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC). The number of families in the AFDC program has been relatively stable since the mid 1970s, rising slightly during the recession of 1980. The number of children per family has been falling. Consequently the number of children served has declined, but children still comprise two-thirds of all recipients. Benefits are not indexed and benefit levels have not kept up with inflation since the mid-1970s.

Average Monthly Recipients and Program Cost

	1965	1970	1975	1980	1981	1984	1985
Number of children	3.3 mil.	7.0 mil.	8.1 mil.	7.6 mil.	7.1 mil.	7.1 mil.	7.2 mil.
Number of families	1.1 mil.	2.6 mil.	3.6 mil.	3.8 mil.	3.6 mil.	3.7 mil.	3.7 mil.
Children per family	3.1	2.8	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
Total payments							
Current dollars	$1.7 bil.	$ 4.9 bil.	$ 9.2 bil.	$12.5 bil.	$13.0 bil.	$14.4 bil.	$14.9 bil.
Constant (1985) dollars	$5.8	$13.6	$18.4	$16.3	$15.4	$14.9	$14.9
Children as a percentage of recipients	75%	73%	71%	68%	68%	66%	67%

Note: Data on number of recipients are for December of each year. Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1986, Table 795, and unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1986, Tables 643 and 646, and unpublished data from the Family Support Administration, Office of Family Assistance.

2. Teenage Mothers and AFDC. Between 1975 and 1984, the number of AFDC recipients under age 30 who were teenage mothers when they bore their first child rose by nearly 100,000. However, the proportion of recipient mothers under age 30 who were teen mothers did not change over this nine-year period. Data for 1975 and 1984 indicate that nearly two-thirds of all AFDC recipients who were then under age 30 were teenagers when their first child was born. Likewise, estimates of the proportion of recipients of all ages who were teenagers when their first child was born show little change during this period. Since the total AFDC program cost, unadjusted for inflation, increased between 1975 and 1984, the amount expended on the households of teen mothers also rose in absolute terms; however, it declined after adjusting for inflation.

	1975	1984
Total mothers under age 30 receiving AFDC	1.588 mil.	1.765 mil.
Mothers under 30 receiving AFDC who were 19 or younger at the birth of their first child	1.024 mil.	1.115 mil.
Proportion of mothers under age 30 receiving AFDC who became mothers at age 19 or younger	64%	63%
Proportion of all recipients who became mothers at age 19 or younger (estimated)	54.1%	54.5%
Total AFDC costs expended on households established by recipients who became mothers at age 19 or younger (estimated)	$4.98 billion	$7.85 billion
Total AFDC costs in 1984 dollars	$9.61 billion	$7.85 billion

Note: Mother's age at first childbirth is calculated from the age of oldest child in the assistance unit. To avoid calculation errors that would occur as first-born children grow up and leave their mother's household, analyses were limited to mothers under age 30 at the time data were collected. The proportion calculated to have been teenage mothers is likely to be underestimated because some teenaged mothers are not designated the caretaker. Cases in which the mother's age was unknown were deleted from both analyses. The proportion of all recipients estimated to be teenage mothers was calculated by assuming 43 percent of recipients over age 30 were teenagers when their first child was born. The resulting proportions - 54.1 and 54.5 percent - were then applied to total program costs for AFDC in each year.

Source: Tabulations by Kristin A. Moore, Child Trends, Inc., using unpublished data for 1984 from the National Integrated Quality Control System, provided by Wilbur Weder, Family Support Administration, Office of Family Assistance, Department of Health and Human Services. Data for 1975 are from the 1975 AFDC Recipient Characteristics Survey as reported in Mary Ann Scheirer, JWK International Corporation, "Research on the Societal Consequences of Adolescent Childbearing: Public Assistance Costs, 1975 and 1977," Quarterly Progress Report to the Center for Population Research, NICHD, for the 3-month period ending December 31, 1980.

3. Average Monthly AFDC Payments. Average monthly AFDC payments vary widely among the states, the highest state paying more than five times the average of the lowest state. Variations are due to differences in average family size, amounts of other countable income, benefit levels, and other factors determined by the state. The average payment per recipient in 1982, when corrected for inflation, was barely above the level of 1965, and below the levels of 1970, 1975, and 1980. The median benefit for a family of four with no other income declined by 36 percent between 1970 and 1984.

Average Monthly AFDC Payments

	1965	1970	1975	1980	1982	1984
Per family	$137	$183	$219	$280	$303	$332
Highest state	-	276	325	399	516	501*
Lowest state	-	47	49	88	89	91
Per recipient						
Current dollars	$ 33	$ 50	$ 72	$100	$106	$115
Constant (1984) dollars	$109	$134	$139	$126	$114	$115
Median state benefit						
Current dollars	-	$221	$264	$350	$376	$376
Constant (1984) dollars	-	$591	$509	$441	$405	$376

*Alaska, formerly highest, had Permanent Fund Dividend Program in effect at this time and was replaced by California as highest.

Note: Data are for December of each year. Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1986, Table 795. The median state benefit is for a family of four with no other income.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1986, Table 643 for recipient data; Table 646 for state data and family data; 1984 state data from Quarterly Public Assistance Statistics, Oct-Dec, 1984; Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives, "Background Material and Data on Programs Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means," 1986 edition, Table 12.

4. Medicaid. The total cost of Medicaid (in constant dollars) has risen steadily since 1972. Children continue to account for approximately half of all Medicaid recipients, but their proportion of total Medicaid expenditures has fallen considerably since the early 1970s.

Medicaid Costs, And Children As A Proportion of Recipients And Costs

	FY1972	FY1974	FY1976	FY1978	FY1980	FY1982	FY1984	FY1985
Total cost: Federal and state vendor payments				(In Billions)				
Current dollars	$ 6.3	$10.0	$14.1	$18.0	$23.3	$29.4	$33.9	$37.5
Constant (1985) dollars	$16.2	$21.8	$26.6	$29.7	$30.4	$32.8	$35.1	$37.5
Children as a proportion of recipients	53%	51%	52%	51%	50%	51%	50%	50%
Proportion of total vendor payments expended on children	32%	21%	21%	19%	16%	14%	14%	14%

Note: Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1986, Table 795, and unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Source: Health Care Financing Administration, "Health Care Financing Review," quarterly volumes.

5. Food Stamp Program. Participation in the Food Stamp program increased steadily during the late 1960s and 1970s, as it was extended from a pilot to a nationwide program. By 1982, nearly one person in ten participated in the program. Participation has declined by about 11 percent since 1982, however. Unlike AFDC, two-parent families are eligible for food stamps and benefits are indexed to increase with inflation.

Food Stamp Program: Participation and Costs

	FY1965	FY1970	FY1975	FY1980	FY1982	FY1985	FY1986
Persons participating[a] (average monthly number)	.4 mil.	4.3 mil.	17.1 mil.	21.1 mil.	21.7 mil.	19.9 mil.	19.4 mil.
Benefit Expenditures							
Current dollars	$ 33 mil.	$550 mil.	$4.4 bil.	$ 8.7 bil.	$10.2 bil.	$10.7 bil.	$10.6 bil.
Constant (1986) dollars	$115 mil.	$1.6 bil.	$9.0 bil.	$11.6 bil.	$11.6 bil.	$10.9 bil.	$10.6 bil.

[a] As of August, 1984, the most recent date for which data are available, 51 percent of all Food Stamp participants were children and 49 percent were adults.

Note: Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1986, Table 795 and unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Program data includes Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory when the Food Stamp program operated in those areas. Puerto Rico left the program in June 1982.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1986, Table 200; most recent years from Department of Agriculture, unpublished data.

6. School Lunch Program. The cost and number of children served in the National School Lunch Program rose steadily through the 1970s before falling in the early 1980s. Since 1982, participation and costs have increased slightly.

School Lunch Program: Lunches Served and Costs

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1982	1985	1986
Total lunches served (free, reduced-price, or regular price school lunches, average daily basis[a])				(In millions)				
	14.1	18.7	22.4	24.9	26.6	22.9	23.6	23.7
Proportion of total lunches served that were free or reduced-price	10%	10%	21%	40%	45%	50%	49%	49%
Total Federal cost (cash + commodities)				(In billions)				
Current dollars	$0.23	$0.40	$0.57	$1.71	$3.19	$2.95	$3.39	$3.55
Constant (1986) dollars	$ .85	$1.39	$1.61	$3.48	$4.24	$3.35	$3.45	$3.55

[a] Peak month basis used in 1960 and 1965.

Note: Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1986, Table 795, and unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, unpublished data.

7. WIC Feeding Program. In fiscal year 1986, more than 3 million infants, young children, and pregnant and nursing women received special dietary supplements through WIC (the Special Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants, and Children). The federal appropriation for FY 1986 was $1.59 billion.

WIC Feeding Program: Participation and Costs

	FY1975	FY1980	FY1982	FY1985	FY1986
Participants	.5 mil.	2.0 mil.	2.4 mil.	3.1 mil.	3.3 mil.
Expenditures					
Current dollars	$ 89 mil.	$725 mil.	$948 mil.	$1.49 bil.	$1.59 bil.
Constant (1986) dollars	$181 mil.	$964 mil.	$1.08 bil.	$1.52 bil.	$1.59 bil.

Note: The WIC program provides supplements to low income infants, young children, and pregnant and nursing mothers who are determined by health professionals to be at nutritional risk. Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1986, Table 795, and unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Source: Published and unpublished data from the Program Information Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

8. Head Start. Enrollment in full-year Head Start programs has increased by 97 percent since 1970, while summer Head Start programs have been phased out. Total program costs have risen 19 percent (in constant dollars) over the same period.

Head Start Program: Participation and Costs

	FY1965	FY1970	FY1975	FY1980	FY1982	FY1985
Enrollment (thousands)						
Full-year program*	-	229	292	362	396	452
Summer program**	561	195	46	14	-	-
Federal appropriation						
Current dollars	$ 96 mil.	$326 mil.	$441 mil.	$735 mil.	$912 mil.	$1,075 mil.
Constant (1985) dollars	$327 mil.	$903 mil.	$881 mil.	$960 mil.	$1,016 mil.	$1,075 mil.

*Most "full-year" programs run for the school year only, i.e., 8-9 months.
**The summer program was deemphasized in the mid 1970s and discontinued in 1982.

Note: Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1986, Table 795, and unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-83, Table 563; most recent year from Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, unpublished data.

9. Family Planning Services. The number of persons served in federally-supported family planning programs and federal appropriations for family planning services rose through the 1970s. A sharp decline in federal Title X appropriations in FY 1982 has been followed by fairly constant support at the new lower funding level. Support for family planning through Medicaid has increased.

Family Planning Services: Participation and Costs

	FY1975	FY1980	FY1981	FY1982	FY1983	FY1984	FY1985	FY1986	FY1987
Total number of persons served under all programs	3.9 mil.	4.6 mil.	4.6 mil.	na	5.0 mil.	na	na	na	na
Medicaid payments for family planning services									
Current dollars	$ 67 mil.	$ 81 mil.	$139 mil.	$133 mil.	$156 mil.	$164 mil.	$195 mil.	na	na
Constant (1986) dollars	$136 mil.	$108 mil.	$167 mil.	$151 mil.	$171 mil.	$173 mil.	$199 mil.	-	-
Title X (Public Health Service Act) appropriations									
Current dollars	$101 mil.	$165 mil.	$162 mil.	$124 mil.	$124 mil.	$140 mil.	$143 mil.	$136 mil.	$143 mil.
Constant (1986) dollars	$206 mil.	$219 mil.	$195 mil.	$141 mil.	$136 mil.	$148 mil.	$146 mil.	$136 mil.	$143 mil.

Note: Family planning services are funded under Title X of the Public Health Services Act, Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid), the Social Services Block Grant, and the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant. Included under Title X are outreach, education, and research funds. Medicaid payments include payments for sterilization as well as contraceptive services and supplies.

Constant dollars are calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1986, Table 795, and unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Source: Data on persons served from: Nestor, B., "Public Funding of Contraceptive Services, 1980-82," Family Planning Perspectives 14(4), July/August 1982: 198-203; Gold, R. and B. Nestor, "Public Funding of Contraceptive, Sterilization and Abortion Services, 1983," Family Planning Perspectives 17(1) January/February 1985:25-30; and Alan Guttmacher Institute, Organized Family Planning Services in the United States, 1981-1983, December, 1984, p. 52. Data on Medicaid payments from: The Health Care Financing Administration. Data on Title X appropriations from: The Office of Family Planning, Bureau of Health Care Delivery and Assistance, DHHS.

U.S. CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES: CURRENT CONDITIONS AND RECENT TRENDS, 1987 ADDITIONAL VIEWS

We feel this report will be a valuable basis for future discussion of trends among American families, so we are pleased to sign this report. We would, however, like to add a few words of caution.

As with all statistical reports, what particular years are selected and the exact divisions of the numbers may cause variations in how the numbers may be utilized. For example, the percentage of married mothers with infants under age one who were in the workforce (39%) is interesting, but needs to be qualified by, to name a few examples, those working at home, those whose fathers may be home with the child when the mother is not, those who have part-time work, those who shift work, and those who have the baby with them while they are working. Without such qualifiers, statistics can be misused for political purposes.

We also strongly disagree with the comment in the introduction to this report that these statistics are anything near "permanent." Trends involving human decisions are not permanent: they are freewill decisions that can be altered. It is humorous to read past projections of American or world history based upon seemingly "permanent" facts of that time period. Certain trends, such as those of single-parent families and two-parent families with small children where both parents work outside the home, do create new challenges. We need to recognize those challenges, but we don't need to exaggerate to make the point.

Lastly we think that is worth drawing attention to the obvious fact that this report contains a lot of good news. For example, this report notes that poverty among children increased ⅓ from 1970 to 1981 but that increase has been virtually stopped since 1981 (0.6% increase in 4 years) in spite of such trends as the increasing number of single parent families and the economic readjustments in some parts of the country.

Infant mortality rates are continuing to drop among both blacks and whites. We need to do better but this is good news. SAT scores are up, drug abuse has declined, and more black children are living in families where one or both parents have finished high school.

This report will assist all of us in moving beyond rhetoric to discussing what the facts of American family life really are.

DAN COATS, *Ranking Minority Member*
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